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# FINANCIAL TIMES

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## NEWS SUMMARY

**GENERAL****BUSINESS**

### Games chiefs discuss boycott

### Exchange loss limits planned by Bank

The International Olympic Committee began consideration of the U.S. call for the Summer Games not to be held in Moscow if Soviet troops continue to occupy Afghanistan.

The 58-member governing body of the Games heard Mr. Cyrus Vance, the U.S. Secretary of State, appeal for the cancellation, postponement or switching of the Games to another site and a suggestion that in future the Games should be given a permanent home.

But early indications were that the initiative was not making great headway. The Soviet Union accused Mr. Vance of "crude political interference" in the affairs of the IOC following his speech. Back Page

**Soviet message**

President Leonid Brezhnev has sent a message to Ayatollah Khomeini saying Moscow wants friendly relations with Iran. Three days of fighting between Iranian Revolutionary Guards and ethnic Turkomans in the north-eastern town of Gonbad-e-Kavus has led to at least 12 deaths and 60 injuries. Page 2

**BL ballot**

Leading trade union negotiators predicted last night that the 90,000 employees at BL Cars will reject the company's pay offer in a ballot result expected tomorrow. Back Page

**Murder theory**

Ulster police think Mr. Leonard Kaiter, the jeweller and gold dealer kidnapped on Friday was killed by terrorists when they realised his family could not pay the £1m ransom they demanded. Page 4

**Killer hunt**

Police hunting the killer of eight-year-old Andrew Cross in Huddersfield at the weekend are seeking an unshaven tattered man with a brown mongrel dog called Smokey. They said the killer is a psychopath who could kill again.

**Maine test**

Senator Edward Kennedy made two last-minute campaign visits in a bid to prevent another damaging loss to President Carter in the second real test of the election year, the 456 Democratic Party caucuses in Maine. Page 2

**Tito setback**

President Tito of Yugoslavia has developed kidney and digestion problems which are hampering his recovery from the amputation of his left leg last month.

**Hostages freed**

Left-wing militants occupying the Spanish Embassy in San Salvador have released two of their eight hostages, but said they would not leave the building until five of their imprisoned comrades were freed.

**In place**

Fish put into a swimming pool at Lytham St. Annes, Lancs, to keep it clean during the winter, are earning the council 10p a time from fishermen keen on an easy catch.

**Briefly . . .**

Body of Nicholas Roberts, 19, from Bramhill, Stockport, who died in a 700 ft fall on Greggs Meagaidh, was found by Highland rescue teams.

MPs will have to pay up to 60 per cent more for their drinks from the end of this month, the Commons Catering Committee has decided.

Smoke has been billowing from a new fissure on Mount Etna following fresh tremors caused by a build-up of gas inside the mountain.

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# Mounting Rhodesia violence will put UK policy to test

BY TONY HAWKINS IN SALISBURY

Britain's Rhodesia policy faces a critical test in the next few days after a week of increasing violence and intimidation, including two attempts to assassinate Mr. Robert Mugabe, the ZANU-PF leader.

Mr. Mugabe narrowly escaped death yesterday when unknown assailants detonated explosives under the wrong car in a three-car convoy carrying Mr. Mugabe and party officials towards Fort Victoria Airport in the Rhodesian midlands. Five people were slightly hurt.

That attempt followed an unsuccessful grenade attack on Mr. Mugabe's Salisbury home early last Wednesday.

Mr. Mugabe had addressed a rally of some 8,000 supporters in Fort Victoria, at which he bitterly accused Lord Soames, the Governor, of bias against his party and of favouring Bishop Muzorewa's United African National Council.

Ironically, the attack on Mr. Mugabe followed reports that Lord Soames had given the ZANU-PF leader a "last chance" to control his ZANLA guerrillas inside and outside the assembly points.

Mr. Mugabe warned Lord Soames at yesterday's rally that a ban would be tantamount to a resumption of the war. The Governor could not "ban ZANU-PF and maintain the ceasefire," Mr. Mugabe said.

British officials said yesterday that the Governor would act against ZANU-PF unless there was evidence of a marked reduction in the violence and intimidation. Mr. Mugabe, however,

says that most of the intimidation is coming not from his supporters but from followers of Bishop Muzorewa and especially the so-called Security Force Auxiliaries which were originally recruited by the Bishop.

The fact that nine of the 12 attacks on prominent political figures in recent weeks have been against Mr. Mugabe and his party tends to lend some credence to that argument.

Lord Soames may, according to British officials, either use the powers he took last week to ban a party in certain electoral districts or limit its campaigning, or he can announce further, more far-reaching powers and threaten to use them against ZANU-PF.

On Friday the British election supervisors, in their first report to the Governor, said there was evidence of widespread intimidation by Mr. Mugabe's followers throughout the eastern half of the country. Mr. Joshua Nkomo and Bishop Muzorewa had been forced to cancel political rallies because of ZANU-PF intimidation, and in certain areas, no rival political party was able to campaign effectively.

Rhodesian Government officials doubt whether Lord Soames would dare to act effectively against ZANU-PF, which has strong support within Africa and at the United Nations.

However, in what might be forecast of what is to come, British officials said last night that Mr. Enos Nkala, a senior member of ZANU-PF, had been banned by Lord Soames from campaigning in the election. It is the first such ban announced since the campaign started. Mr. Nkala was said to have made inflammatory statements.

Britain will not intervene directly in the case against Mr. Garfield Todd, the former Southern Rhodesia Prime Minister, arrested at his Shabani home on Saturday and charged with assisting and failing to report guerrillas. Mr. Todd, aged 72, a senior adviser to Mr. Nkomo, was charged under the Law and Order Maintenance Act (which Lord Soames has been using against ZANU-PF) and was allowed bail after the Governor had expressed his concern at its earlier refusal.

Mr. Todd is to answer the charges against him on February 23.

Anxiety was mounting last night about the possible reaction of the guerrillas in the assembly camps to the assassination attempts against Mr. Mugabe. The attempts are not going to make it easier to get the "freelance" guerrillas who are still large to report to the camps.

If that is the case, Lord Soames will have to act by the end of this week if the situation is not to pass beyond control.

# Turkey to seek breathing space for foreign debt

BY DAVID TONGE

TURKEY WILL this month seek a major fresh debt rescheduling of one quarter of the country's \$14bn foreign debt. Further such moves could follow.

Last year saw the virtual completion of the largest debt rescheduling exercise in financial history, covering Turkish debts of more than \$5bn.

But on February 25, Turkey will ask Western Governments to consider rescheduling a further \$3bn-\$3.5bn. Most of this represents official debts and guaranteed trade debts which have just been rolled over. It will also request the West to prepare to pledge up to \$2bn credits.

A decision has yet to be taken on whether Turkey will ask Western banks to improve the terms on which they rescheduled about \$3bn of commercial debt last year.

These plans reflect the continuing gravity of Turkey's foreign exchange crisis. They were spelt out in an interview in London this weekend by Mr. Turgut Ozal, the Undersecretary to the Turkish Prime Minister, who is responsible for coordinating Turkey's flourishing black market into the official economy.

Mr. Ozal disclosed that a major tax reform would be introduced in the next few weeks. A form of value added tax was being considered.

In London, the Turkish delegation saw Mr. Dousias Hard, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, government officials and bankers. Today the delegation will meet the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris. It will then go to West Germany to see Herr Hans Matthaeus, the Finance Minister, who is coordinating Western aid for Turkey.

Mr. Ozal says that the OECD will hold a pledging session for Turkey at the end of March. Last May, a similar session led to pledges of \$900m worth of credits. West German officials have indicated that a similar amount might be necessary, but Mr. Ozal is looking for about \$2bn. He wants the pledges to be less subject to conditions than last year's credits.

Before this OECD meeting, an OECD working party will meet Turkey to discuss its medium-term planning. This meeting is due on February 25. Mr. Ozal

said that Turkey would raise the question of rescheduling the \$2.3bn guaranteed commercial arrears and medium and long-term official debts which the OECD rotted over in 1978 and 1979. Turkey also planned to discuss further such debts coming due in the year to June 1981. These two total \$2bn to \$2.5bn.

"We need a breathing space," he said. This year Turkey had to make debt service and interest payments of about \$2.1bn. Even before the latest increase in oil prices, its forecast export earnings of \$3.5bn would scarcely cover its oil import bill.

He warned that this year Turkey faced a financing gap of up to \$2bn, even though a further \$300m credits had nearly been finalised with the World Bank and major progress had been made with the IMF. Mr. Ozal, who himself has worked at the World Bank, says that the IMF, subject to approval by the Board of Directors on February 21, had agreed to transfer \$225m to Turkey this month—\$130m under the existing \$325m standby agreement and \$95m under a new compensatory financing facility.

Turkey had already obtained a \$190m bridging loan in anticipation of this transfer, from Citibank and the Union Bank of Switzerland. Mr. Ozal expected an additional \$30m under the existing stand-by agreement by the end of March and a further major agreement with the IMF to be reached by early April. Turkey was hoping to obtain from the Supplementary Financing Facility (the so-called Witteveen Fund), a larger agreement than the present stand-by agreement.

Most of Turkey's rescheduling

Continued on Back Page

# British Airways' £20 Paris fare

BY MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH AIRWAYS plans to offer a £20 single Channel Eurobudget fare between London and Paris from April 1. It will be about half the present cheap-rate at £65 return, and an off-peak Eurobudget rate of £45 return.

The fare will be limited to about 200 seats a day, outside peak periods. Channel Hopper tickets will be on sale only at the Victoria terminal, on the day of travel or the day before.

The fare is part of a new package which British Airways is introducing this spring in a move to change the pattern of short-haul travel in Europe.

The airline is also abolishing first-class travel on the Paris route. A cheaper Club Class fare—£110 return against the present first-class £142—will replace it.

There will also be a cheap Eurobudget fare of £85 return (£42.50 single), against the present economy class fare of £94 return, a Eurobudget excursion rate at £65 return, and an off-peak Eurobudget rate of £45 return.

The plans are still subject to the approval of the Government, although the French Government has signified its agreement.

Announcing the plans in Brussels yesterday at the introduction into service of British Airways' Boeing 737 short-haul aircraft, Mr. Roy Watts, chief executive, said the new Club Class was aimed directly at businessmen.

The airline hoped to extend the concept to other European routes, such as Scandinavia, Italy, Spain and Portugal, by November 1, and in the rest of Europe by 1981 if other airlines approved.

Air France is joining British Airways in introducing the Club Class on the London-Paris route, but is not yet to bring in the Channel Hopper.

On London-Paris, their busiest route, the two airlines handle 1.7m passengers a year between them.

The reasoning behind their plans is that the volume of first-class travel in Europe is declining, as more and more businessmen take the cheaper economy-class fares, although they still require to be segregated from the leisure class of travellers.

## Sicilians vanish in Rome case

BY PAUL BETTS IN ROME

ANOTHER MAJOR financial scandal has broken out in Italy following the disappearance at the weekend of the three Caltagirone brothers. They are members of a leading Rome property and construction family of Sicilian origin wanted by police on charges of alleged fraudulent bankruptcy.

The flight of the brothers—Gaetano, Francesco and Camillo—coincides with the liquidation proceedings of 18 companies controlled by them because about £160bn (£86.6m) of banking debts was not honoured.

It is reported that the collapse of the Caltagirone empire and its intricate web of other construction and property companies could entail overall losses to the Italian banking system of more than £600bn (£324.8m) in unpaid debt—principal and accumulated interest.

This would represent one of the largest private bankruptcies in post-war Italy—for greater than the collapse of the financial empire of Sig. Michele Sindona. He is the Sicilian financier now facing trial in New York over the collapse of his U.S.-controlled Franklin National Bank.

The Caltagirone Brothers are understood to have fled from Italy shortly before magistrates investigating their financial affairs ordered their arrest on Friday on charges of alleged fraudulent bankruptcy.

The scandal has been fuelled by reports that the three brothers were warned beforehand of the magistrates' decision. Moreover, the magistrates are reported to have been split over the decision to arrest the three.

In a statement issued by their Italian lawyers at the weekend, the brothers flatly denied the charges. It is thought they may be in the South of France.

The brothers are said to have had for some time support from influential sectors in the ruling Christian Democrat party. These contacts seem to have helped them gain access to substantial credit from the Christian Democrat-dominated banking system, particularly from Italcaisse, the central savings institute grouping the country's savings banks.

The financial affairs of the three brothers have already been widely reported on both the banking system and on political life.

## BSC begins selling off subsidiaries

BY RAY PERMAN, SCOTTISH CORRESPONDENT

De Groot has a link with the company through the oil-platinum construction yard at Methil, Fife, owned by a joint-venture company Redpath De Groot Caledonian, formed in 1978.

The joint company lost £5m in its first year. However, its financial position has been improving, particularly since a management shake-up and reduction in the labour force last summer. It should break even in the current financial year.

The yard has some small contracts in hand and will be bidding for large orders such as the platform for the Brae field, which will be placed shortly. Redpath Dorman Long's poor financial position has however, held back its expansion.

The purchase would increase De Groot's stake in Methil from 43 to 91 per cent, the balance being held by the Edinburgh investment trust North Sea Assets and by the Scottish Development Agency.

De Groot, while retaining control, may sell some of the equity to increase British participation and expand the capital base.

## OVERSEAS NEWS

## Iran clash with Turkomans leaves 12 dead, 60 injured

BY SIMON HENDERSON IN TEHRAN

THREE DAYS of fighting between Iranian Revolutionary Guards and Turkomans has led to at least 12 deaths and 60 people injured in the latest outburst of tension between ethnic minorities and the central Government.

The town, about 30 miles from the Soviet border, is divided between the opposing forces who have set up barricades. In a similar outburst of fighting less than a year ago, the Turkomans are being helped by members of the Iranian Left-wing Fedayeen guerrilla movement. At that time, there were reports of arms coming across the border and fighters fleeing to Russia when the Iranian Army moved in.

The latest fighting must be profoundly disturbing to the Government, but this time there is no suspicion among diplomats of Soviet involvement. Last week's reports of Soviet troop

concentrations in the Caucasus referred to the area on the other side of Iran, between the Caspian Sea and the Turkish border.

Today is the first anniversary of the Iranian Revolution, and the 100th day of the U.S. hostages' captivity yesterday, militant students at the U.S. embassy were still standing firm against criticism of their "Government within a Government" made by the country's new President, Mr. Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr.

An indication of Ayatollah Khomeini's crucial involvement in decision-making despite his ill-health came at the weekend when his son, Hojjatollah Ahmad Khomeini, visited the Embassy along with Archibishop Hilarion Capucci, the former Greek Catholic Prelate of Jerusalem, to meet some of the hostages.

Agencies add: The Soviet Union yesterday told Iran that reports of Soviet troop move-

ments near the Iranian border were false and there was no Soviet threat to Iran's territorial integrity, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said. The assurance had been given by Mr. Vladimir Vinogradov, the Russian Ambassador, in a meeting with Mr. Sadeq Qotbzadeh, Iran's Foreign Minister.

On Saturday, however, the Iranian Foreign Ministry confirmed U.S. reports of the Soviet troop movements.

Mr. Leonid Brezhnev, the Soviet leader, has sent an official message stressing the Kremlin's desire for "good-neighbourly relations" with Iran. Moscow Radio reported yesterday.

The Soviet Union has supplied Kuwait with sophisticated surface-to-surface missiles. Kuwait's Defence Minister reported yesterday. The missiles, with a range of 42 miles, are each able to carry a 920 lb warhead. The Ministry did not say how many Kuwait had bought.

## Dissidents arrested in Poland

BY CHRISTOPHER BOBINSKI IN WARSAW

POLICE arrested 12 leading Polish dissidents over the weekend. The move is interpreted as a signal to orthodox party opinion and to visiting delegations to the eighth party congress, which starts today, that the authorities intend to keep the civil rights movement under control.

Among those arrested were Mr. Jacek Kuron and Mr. Adam Michnik, prominent figures in

the KOR Civil Rights Group, which advocates economic and political reform and has consistently exposed civil rights violations.

Last night, after holding them for nearly 48 hours, police began releasing those arrested. Polish law allows arrests for up to two days without a formal charge. Earlier, KOR members still at liberty convened a hurried Press conference in the flat of veteran economist Pro-

fessor Edward Lipinski at which they expressed concern at the police move and solidarity with those arrested and with Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov.

Professor Lipinski underlined the irony of arresting dissidents on the eve of the party congress which is ostensibly designed to seek ways of increasing party democracy and gaining nationwide support for the task of tackling the economic crisis.

## Mrs. Sakharov in plea to West

BY DAVID SATTER IN MOSCOW

MRS. YELENA SAKHAROV, wife of Dr. Andrei Sakharov, the Nobel Peace Prize winner, who has been exiled to Gorky, said at the weekend that the Soviet authorities would make "short work" of her husband if people in the West did not keep up pressure on his behalf.

In an open letter read at her

mother's apartment in Moscow, Mrs. Sakharov called on western scientists to avoid contacts with their Soviet colleagues who have kept silent on the banishment of her husband.

Although Dr. Sakharov has been bitterly attacked in the Soviet Press as a slanderer and a traitor, there have been no public condemnations of him

by scientific colleagues. Mrs. Sakharov said she believed this reflected a desire by the authorities not to further antagonise western scientists.

Mrs. Sakharov said the silence of Dr. Sakharov's Soviet colleagues should be understood as a protest on Dr. Sakharov's behalf.

## Senator calls for Miller inquiry

By David Buchan in Washington

A CALL has been made for an independent special prosecutor to investigate whether Mr. William Miller, the Treasury Secretary, lied to the Senate in denying that he knew nothing of overseas bribes paid by Textron Corporation which he headed until 1978. The call comes from Senator William Proxmire, Democratic chairman of the Senate Banking Committee.

Mr. Benjamin Civiletti, the Attorney-General, said last week that the Miller case did not warrant an outside prosecutor. But at a banking committee hearing on Friday, at which Mr. Miller again testified to his innocence, pressure emerged from Senator Proxmire and from Republican committee members for Mr. Civiletti to change his mind.

It remains doubtful whether this pressure will succeed or whether many senators want to pursue the Miller case further.

Senator Proxmire conceded that the Treasury Secretary was still held in high regard by many on Capitol Hill. Moreover, Congress now has its own problems in the shape of seven Representatives and one Senator of taking bribes from undercover Government agents.

Fresh leaks about the activities of the Federal Bureau of Investigation show that its inquiry into Federal politicians was part of a wide pattern of undercover investigations of politicians and organised crime across the country.

## Slower growth likely in Europe

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Commerce has predicted a slowing down of European economic growth this year. European Community inflation is expected to continue at about 9 per cent. But the rate is expected to vary widely among member states—from West Germany's 4.5 per cent to Italy's 14.5 per cent.

Average unemployment in the Community is expected to climb by 600,000, or from 5.6 per cent to 6.2 per cent. It will rise in most countries, falling slightly in Ireland.

Developing country delegates are returning home empty-handed from the three-week conference, which ended in confrontation on Saturday night despite Indian attempts to forge a compromise. Indeed, the gap between rich and poor on the question of accelerated industrialisation of the Third World appeared to have grown during the conference.

The 133-nation meeting adopted a "New Delhi declaration and plan of action" presented by the Group of 77, with no likelihood of its implementation. It received support of 83 countries, while 22 voted against.

## Last-ditch Kennedy effort in Maine

BY JUREK MARTIN, IN HARPSWELL NECK, MAINE

EDWARD KENNEDY was yesterday pulling out all the stops in a last-ditch effort to avert another damaging defeat by President Carter in the second real test of election year—the 426 Democratic Party caucuses in the mill towns and small farming communities of Maine, next door to his home state of Massachusetts.

Senator Kennedy planned two last-minute campaigning forays over the weekend, furiously and stridently complaining about Mr. Carter's refusal to engage in direct debate over foreign and domestic issues.

The people of Maine, he said, were distressed that the President was hiding in the White House behind the cloak of

Carter.

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## WORLD TRADE NEWS

JULY 1980

# Airbus urges Fokker to make joint offer to Japan

BY CHARLES SMITH, FAR EAST EDITOR, IN TOKYO

**FOKKER-VFW**, the Dutch-West German aircraft manufacturer, has been asked by Airbus Industrie to consider an arrangement under which the European aircraft industry would put up a "single proposal" to Japan for the joint development of a short-haul airliner.

The arrangement, if accepted by Fokker, would end the present situation in which Fokker and Airbus are making competing offers to Japan. It began more than a year ago to sound out the Japanese industry on a proposal for joint development of the F-29, a 130-seater, short-haul airliner which it

hopes to start building in 1983. Airbus made a somewhat later start, but has recently begun to try to interest Japan in its SA-1 and SA-2 projects.

Code names for two alternative versions of a short-haul airliner carrying from 130 to 160 passengers.

Mr. Francois Swarttouw, the Fokker chairman, said in Tokyo he was considering the Airbus proposal for talks on a joint approach to Japan. He doubted, however, whether Airbus was in a position to design a new short-haul aircraft "very soon." What the proposal seemed to indicate, according to Mr. Swarttouw, was that Fokker

was on the right track with its own plans for a 130 seater short-haul aircraft.

Fokker claims that its new aircraft will fill a slot in the aircraft market where there is a potential demand for up to 1,500 aircraft. It hopes to capture up to 400 orders and to be able to offer a product that will be fully competitive with the U.S. aircraft industry in the same size and performance range.

Fokker would, however, prefer not to have to compete with both Airbus Industrie and leading U.S. manufacturers at the same time.

## Poles to buy fewer UK tools

BY CHRISTOPHER BOBINSKI IN WARSAW

**BRITISH SALES** of machine tools to Poland will drop by about half this year compared with 1979, according to Mr. Alexander Jung, the managing director of Metalexport.

The company is Poland's sole foreign trader in machine tools, and imports from Britain last year were worth £37.8m com-

pared with £45.8m in 1978. Metalexport's overall hard currency imports last year were worth £231.8m and Mr. Jung is planning to spend a similar amount of hard currency on machine tools in 1980.

Metalexport's hard currency exports last year were worth £63.4m. The British sales decline this year is largely ex-

plained by the current round of equipment purchases for the Massey-Ferguson Perkins modification of the Ursus tractor factory, which is to end soon. With no further large British projects in view, prospects for the future are bleak and this year imports will mainly come from West Germany, France and Italy.

## Soviets sign pact with Hungary

BY DAVID SATTER IN MOSCOW

**THE SOVIET UNION** and Hungary have signed a trade agreement for 1980 which calls for trade to increase to Roubles 5.3bn (£3.6bn), a 5 per cent increase over the value of trade last year which was Roubles 5.05bn.

The agreement also calls for an increase of 200,000 tonnes in deliveries of Soviet oil which is

provided to Hungary and other Comecon countries at protected prices. Under the trade protocol Hungarian imports will have a value of Roubles 2.9bn and exports to have a value of Roubles 2.4bn, thereby leaving a planned deficit for Hungary of Roubles 500m. Hungary exports machinery and agricultural goods to the Soviet Union and gets 70 per cent of its energy products from the Soviet Union.

Total crude oil deliveries will come to 7.5m tonnes compared with 7.3m tonnes last year, and the Soviet Union will supply 2.5m tonnes of oil products in 1980. Gas deliveries are to increase to 3.5bn cubic metres this year from 2.6bn cubic metres in 1979.

## SHIPPING REPORT

### Dry cargo rates show strength

BY WILLIAM HALL, SHIPPING CORRESPONDENT

**THE DRY CARGO** markets continue to show surprising strength in the aftermath of the United States embargo on grain exports to Russia. Meanwhile the tanker market remains depressed by the unusually mild winter in many of the world's oil consuming nations.

Idle tanked tonnage is piling up in the Arabian Gulf and there is talk of ships being put back into lay-up. The relatively mild winter in both Europe and North America has meant that oil stocks are being maintained.

Rates for very large crude carriers (VLCC) are far from healthy. Currently, a 250,000 tonne can expect to command around Worldwide 25. Among voyages westwards out of the Arabian Gulf, this is roughly 25 per cent below the rates prevailing in mid-January.

Rates for ultra large crude carriers (ULCCs) stand at around Worldwide 26. Amongst the smaller vessels, the demand for products carriers has picked up and 30,000 tonners are commanding \$17-\$18 per ton per

day for 12 months time charter. In the dry cargo market the strength of freight rates is rather puzzling. Denholm Coates reports renewed interest in period charter activity from numerous sources — including the Japanese. Rates for 27,000 tonners are around \$8,000 per day for 12 months.

## World Economic Indicators

### INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

	Dec '79	Nov '79	Oct '79	Dec '78	% Change over previous year	Index base year
U.S.	152.2	151.8	149.6	150.4	+1.2	1967=100
Germany	133.6	137.4	129.2	122.0	+9.5	1970=100
Japan	138.0	138.1	136.7	127.3	+8.4	1975=100
France	134.0	132.0	136.0	130.0	+3.1	1970=100
Italy	147.4	157.0	142.6	137.8	+6.7	1970=100
UK	113.5	112.3	110.9	109.6	+3.6	1975=100
Holland	124.0	126.0	124.0	123.0	+0.8	1970=100
Belgium	129.0	110.6	75.7	124.4	+3.7	1970=100

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## Cost rises hit new Iran dam

By Simon Henderson in Tehran

ONE OF the bigger development projects to survive the Iranian Revolution—the 8500m Lar Dam, outside Tehran—is on the point of suspension, because of difficulties with the Iranian authorities over cost rises.

The companies involved are Sir Alexander Gibb and Partners of Britain, acting as consultant engineers; Impregilo and Tessa, an Italian-Iranian joint venture led by the Fiat-affiliate Impresita, which is building the dam; a consortium of three West German companies — Huta Regerfeld, Karl Stoehr, and Heitkamp — building a tunnel; and a Japanese company, Kumagai Gumi, working on some of the downstream facilities.

Those associated with the project (which is 80 per cent complete) say meetings with the Tehran Regional Water Board, the customer for the contract, to sort out the difficulties are continuing, but the situation is one of conflict.

When the contract was drawn up in 1974, the Iranian Planning and Budget Organisation had not fully formulated a policy to deal with cost escalation, and the project has been working in a grey area ever since.

Work on the dam was less affected by the revolution than most projects. Since then, it has been declared a priority by the revolutionary authorities. When complete,

it will provide extra drinking water for the capital.

## ALFA ROMEO, NISSAN TALKS

BY PAUL BETTS IN ROME

THE ITALIAN Communist Party and the Communist-dominated Engineering and Metalworkers' Union have expressed broad approval on the current negotiations between the state Alfa Romeo car company and the Japanese Nissan group for a joint venture to manufacture initially some 50,000 medium sized cars in southern Italy.

The Italian car group, which lost L126bn (268m) in 1978 and is expected to report another sizeable deficit last year, has for the past 12 months sought international and domestic partners for eventual joint ventures.

The basic aim of these ventures is to produce better economies of scale for a low output manufacturer like Alfa Romeo.

The deal with Nissan is also expected to favour the recovery of Alfa Romeo's heavy loss-making operations at its Pomigliano d'Arco plant, near Naples, which has been plagued in past years by low productivity and chronic labour problems.

The idea is to mount a new medium sized car with 1300 cc and 1500 cc engines developed for the Alfasedi range manufactured at the Naples plant. Alfa Romeo's participation in the new project would probably amount to about 70 per cent while Nissan's share would be about 30 per cent.

The eventual agreement, which is not expected to involve Nissan taking an equity stake in Alfa Romeo, is also understood to envisage pre-assembly operations at a new plant to be constructed near the existing Alfasedi Pomigliano d'Arco complex.

But the Alfa-Nissan proposals have aroused some controversy here because of fears that the deal could give the Japanese car industry a bridgehead in Italy. The negotiations also coincide with the growing difficulties in the car operations of Fiat

## Communist Party gives its approval

BY PAUL BETTS IN ROME

Italy's largest private enterprise and main car manufacturer.

Fiat recently reported disappointing results in its car operations last year largely as result of inadequate productivity and serious industrial relations problems. The Turin-based group is now involved in major talks with the trade unions to try to improve productivity.

Moreover, the Government has set up a working party to examine the problems of the Italian car industry in view of the sector's growing difficulties.

• Foreign car sales accounted for 572,800 units, or a 39.5 per cent share, out of the total 1,456,000 cars registered in Italy in 1979. AP-DI reports from Milan.

• Sales by foreign companies rose 13.3 per cent from the previous year, while total sales increased by 4.3 per cent according to the Association of Italian Representatives of Foreign Companies.

## Electrical 'slump' fears

BY RUPERT CORNWELL IN MILAN

ITALY'S heavy electrical industry is facing a severe slump in activity unless the government moves swiftly to launch its promised nuclear power station programme, according to Sig Ottorino Beltrami.

Sig Beltrami said on the eve of the annual Industry Exhibition here that the electrical and heavy electrical sector produced a trade surplus of L1.21bn (2660m) in 1979.

Prospects for this year, apart from the anxiety over the nuclear development programme and a consistently low level of research spending, are uncertain.

## Eximbank for India urged

BY K. K. SHARMA IN NEW DELHI

THE Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has suggested the creation of a revolving fund exclusively for project exports, including joint ventures abroad.

In a detailed note to a Government committee now formulating India's export strategy for the 1980s, the Federation also suggested the creation of a separate foreign exchange fund to provide export credit outside the general credit guidelines of the Government.

The Federation called for immediate steps to establish an exclusive export-import bank on the lines of those operating in the U.S. and Japan.

The measures sought by it are important as India faces a trade deficit of over Rs 2000 (12.1bn) in 1979-80 and feels export promotion is the only way to narrow the gap.

• For the first time in the UK, India is mounting a major industrial trade fair at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, from March 2 to

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No other people machine can live up to such a lifetime performance record. No car. No

## UK NEWS

## Joseph to face Welsh pressure

By ROBIN REEVES, WELSH CORRESPONDENT

SIR KEITH JOSEPH, Industry Secretary, will face pressure to upgrade the regional development status of Port Talbot, Llanwern, and other parts of Wales, when he makes a whirlwind fact-finding tour of South Wales today.

The level of regional aid to incoming industry in both steel towns is due to be cut in August as part of the Government's public expenditure economies. Local authority leaders will press for the restoration of maximum incentives to offset the 11,300 redundancies which British Steel Corporation wants at its Port Talbot and Llanwern plants.

Although the Government has announced a special grant of £45m for the next two years committed to an all-out strike in the coal, steel and transport industries from March 10, preferably with the active support of the British TUC but, if necessary, alone. A final decision is due to be taken at a Wales TUC recalled conference on February 27.

Local trade union leaders acknowledge it could prove difficult to maintain this militant stance against the steel redundancies, given a settlement of the steel pay strike.

## 'Watchdog for State groups' call

By Elinor Goodman, Lobby Staff

EFFECTIVE re-establishment of the former Parliamentary select committee on nationalised industries is likely to be discussed today by chairman of the 12 new "watching" committees.

The concept, canvassed by MPs concerned that certain aspects of nationalised industries are not adequately overseen by the present departmental committees, envisages such a body as a subcommittee of the new Industry and Trade Committee.

The suggestion is among subjects expected to be discussed at today's long delayed first meeting of the Liaison Committee, set up to deal with issues that individual committees cannot resolve alone.

The new select committees, which began work in December, were devised to give MPs greater access than before to information from Ministers and civil servants.

However, some MPs have queried whether the committees' restriction to the affairs of specific departments would not inhibit their effectiveness.

# 40

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## British Steel to limit coking coal imports

By MAURICE SAMUELSON

THE BRITISH Steel Corporation has agreed not to expand its imports of coking coal this year, thanks to a new pricing formula which will cost the National Coal Board about £22m.

The agreement, which is expected to be announced this week, lasts until the end of 1980 and will only marginally reduce imports in South Wales about growing imports and their effect on miners' jobs.

BSF, which is already importing some 4m tonnes, had been considering an option for another 1.8m tonnes if it had bought British coal instead. The hard-pressed corporation would need to have found another £23m.

Repeated requests for a Government subsidy have been rejected, even though the Coal Board offered to pay nearly half the amount required.

The latest rebuff came during last Tuesday's meeting between Sir Derek Ezra, NCB chairman, and Mr. David Howell, Energy Secretary, who again said that the State-owned industries must find the extra money themselves.

Sir Derek proposed other forms of relief besides a straight-forward subsidy.

The Coal Board subsequently increased its own subsidy to BSF from £15m to nearly £22m. Under their agreement, too, no more imported coking coal will be supplied to the BSF works at Llanwern, in South Wales, or to Scunthorpe in the North-East. However, imports will still be allowed to go to the works at Port Talbot, Rhuvaeraig (in Scotland), and Durham.

This means that of the 9m tonnes of coking coal which BSF (in a pre-strike estimate) would burn this year, at least 5m tonnes would be British, compared with last summer's annual supply rate from the NCB of 7m tonnes. Without the agreement, however, this year's British share would have fallen to 3.7m tonnes, with the prospect of a mere 2.5m tonnes in 1981.

BSF says that it could only dispense with imports if the Coal Board brought its prices nearer to those of cheaper competitors, such as the U.S. and Australia. The Coal Board says it has not hit coal production in South Wales, although coal which cannot be moved is being put into stock and some is being supplied to power stations. But with BSF planning to halve steel output there, the Coal Board's surpluses will rise and it will face a serious marketing problem.

Meanwhile, with coal prices due to rise at the beginning of March, the NCB is holding talks with the General Electricity Generating Board, which has undertaken to buy 75m tonnes a year as long as the increase does not exceed the rise in inflation.

## Orion to change its management pattern

By MICHAEL LAFFERTY, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ORION, the consortium-owned Euro-currency bank, is to introduce a more independent management structure whereby it will operate more "at arm's length" from its shareholders.

The new structure is the direct outcome of discussions between Orion executives and its shareholder banks since the resignation of Mr. David Montagu as Orion chief executive last year.

Mr. Montagu wanted to see Orion bought out by one of its main shareholders, possibly National Westminster Bank.

The other shareholding banks are Chase Manhattan, Credito Italiano, Mitsubishi, Royal Bank of Canada and Westdeutsche Landesbank.

The management arrangements involve appointment of Mr. William de Gelsey, one of the bank's managing directors, as deputy chairman. Mr. Christopher Chataway, the former Tory politician, and Mr. Philip Hubbard, both Orion managing directors, are appointed vice-chairmen.

Acceptance of these posts is said to indicate that all these executives are now happy to

## Terrorist funds theory on jeweller's death

By STEWART DALBY

POLICE in Northern Ireland are pursuing the theory that Mr. Leonard Kaitcer, the jeweller and gold dealer, kidnapped in Belfast last week, was killed by terrorists who realised that his family could not pay the £1m ransom that they demanded.

His body was found on Saturday in a roadside ditch four miles from his home. Nobody has claimed responsibility for the murder, but it is thought that the kidnapping of a businessman in Ulster for seven years. The last victim was Mr. Thomas Niedermeyer, whose body has never been found.

The prospect of businessmen being kidnapped adds a frightening new dimension to terrorist activity in Northern Ireland. The province is suffering from the worldwide recession and there is every need to attract foreign investment, but there are fears that such kidnappings will frighten off potential investors.

The Provisional IRA, the

## Less State aid for industry

BY MAZEL DUFFY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GOVERNMENT AID to the 1972 Industry Act, applicable only to the assisted areas, in place of the more general investment grants, was responsible for the fall in aid under the first category from £570m in 1971-72 to £380m in 1978-79.

The figures, covering both direct and indirect aid from the Department of Industry, show that government support was at its peak in 1975-76 at £1,500m (£1,779m survey prices).

Nevertheless, it will regard the 1980 agreement as a breathing space and more talks are expected later in the year aimed at limiting coking coal imports.

Sir Derek Ezra recently estimated that for every 1m tonnes of business lost in the South Wales and Kent mines which produce coking coal, some 3,500 to 4,000 jobs could disappear. Surprisingly, the steel strike has not hit coal production in South Wales, although coal which cannot be moved is being put into stock and some is being supplied to power stations. But with BSF planning to halve steel output there, the Coal Board's surpluses will rise and it will face a serious marketing problem.

Meanwhile, with coal prices due to rise at the beginning of March, the NCB is holding talks with the General Electricity Generating Board, which has undertaken to buy 75m tonnes a year as long as the increase does not exceed the rise in inflation.

Introduction of regional development grants under the schemes.

Britannia faces new jet choice

By MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

BRITANNIA, the UK independent holiday airline, hopes to probably be for two aircraft. Mr. Derek Davison, managing director, said yesterday that the airline's present fleet of Boeing 737 twin-engined jets by the end of this year will total 25 aircraft.

## PLANT AND MACHINERY SALES

- 1) ROLLING MILLS  
12in x 30in x 35in wide x 400 hp Four High Reversing Mill.  
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6in x 6in x 20in wide Four High Mill.
- 2) CUT/LENGTH LINE 1,500 mm x 3 mm x 15 ton coil.
- 3) CUT/LENGTH LINE 1,000 mm x 2 mm.
- 4) CUT/LENGTH LINE 750 mm x 2 mm.
- 5) CUT/LENGTH LINE 400 mm x 3 mm.
- 6) WIRE FLATTENING AND NARROW STRIP ROLLING MILL.  
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- 10) PLATE SHEAR 4ft x 18in Cincinnati.
- 11) GUILLOTINE 8ft x 0.125in Pearson.
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- 22) WIRE DRAWING MACHINE 15 DIE cone type. Marshall Richards.
- 23) NINE BLOCK WIRE DRAWING MACHINE AND SPOOLER  
by Barco (24in x 25 hp drawblocks).
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- 25) HIGH SPEED AUTOMATIC CENTRELESS BAR TURNING MACHINE (1977 max. capacity 38 mm bar).

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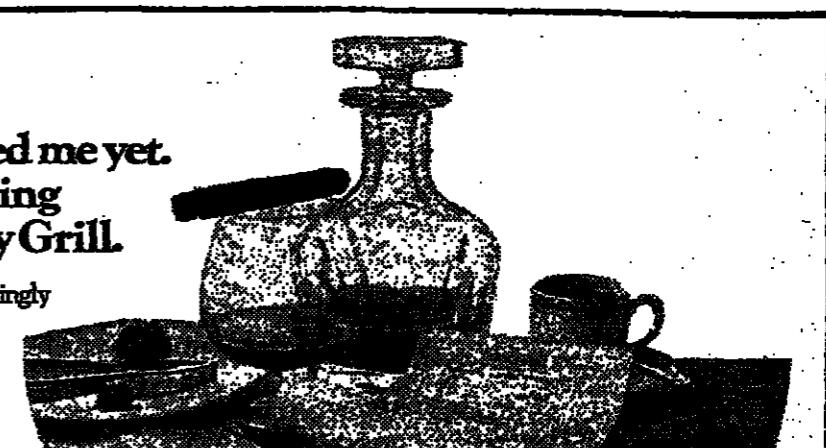
16" x 7" — 12 each 40ft.  
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It was Hugh who had pointed out our astonishingly cheap house, now worth well into six figures.

He had a nose for Equities only equalled by his nose for Burgundies.

The agenda for today was annuities.

Three years ago, Hugh had practically ordered me to Milliner Continental for £3,000.

And last month, as he became Godfather to our first-born, he had equally firmly told me to sell the very same car for £25,000.

I needed a safe home for the money. I needed more life insurance. And with inflation on the up, I needed the best growth prospects.

Now, your annuity. I recommend The Sentinel. They're well established, and their new management is rather bright. They're the one to watch in the 1980s?

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## UK NEWS

# Dow plans Cromarty petro-chemical plant

BY RAY PERMAN, SCOTTISH CORRESPONDENT

**DOW CHEMICALS**, the U.S. group, has applied for consent to build a £150m gas separation plant and an associated petro-chemical complex on the Cromarty Firth in North-East Scotland.

The project is linked to the proposal to construct a new pipeline system which would collect gas from a number of North Sea fields, and which is presently being studied by Mobil and the British Gas Corporation.

Their report, expected to be in the Government's hands shortly, will recommend building a 400-mile pipeline with two branches stretching as far as the Magnus Field in the North and the Fulmar Field in the South. Gas would be landed at St. Fergus, near Aberdeen, where there are already gas terminals.

## Ethane cracker

The company has already bought 500 acres of reclaimed land in Nigg Bay on the Firth, from a Channel Islands registered property group and it has made an arrangement with Cromarty Petroleum, which owns a large adjacent site. Dow will now act as managers

serving the Frigg and Brent fields and where British Gas would extract the methane.

In an outline planning application submitted to the Highland Regional Council on Friday, Dow envisages a further undersea pipeline from St. Fergus to the Cromarty Firth, where there would be a plant to separate and process gases such as propane, ethane and butane.

## Finsbury

The company has already bought 500 acres of reclaimed land in Nigg Bay on the Firth, from a Channel Islands registered property group and it has made an arrangement with Cromarty Petroleum, which owns a large adjacent site. Dow will now act as managers

## SDRs attract more business from Arab oil-exporters

BY DAVID MARSH

MIDDLE-EAST oil-exporting countries are showing increased interest in placing surplus funds with Western banks in deposits denominated in special drawing rights.

The revival of interest reported by international banks in the International Monetary Fund reflects oil exporters' desire for diversified investment outlets for their rapidly growing surpluses.

It comes when the IMF is mounting a large-scale diplomatic effort to win support for an official SDR substitution account that will allow central banks to exchange dollar reserves for SDR-denominated assets issued by the fund.

SDR accounts allow depositors to minimise the risk of foreign-exchange losses by spreading their investment among the 16 currencies making up the SDR. The accounts, normally running for three or six months, are opened in any currency, but depositors receive payments of interest and principal in terms of the SDR.

Several international banks launched such accounts in the mid-1970s but their use never became widespread among

corporate or public-sector customers.

Signs of increasing demand reflect not only the IMF's efforts to set up its substitution account but also the relative weakness over the past 12 months of refuge currencies such as the Deutsche Mark, Swiss franc or yen.

Chase Manhattan, one of the first banks to offer SDR accounts, says interest has recently, primarily from central banks in the Middle East and elsewhere.

Kredietbank, the Belgian banking group, which, like Chase, has been running SDR accounts for several years, also reports increased demand in the past six months from Arab institutions.

All the big four London clearing banks report a build-up in inquiries for such accounts. National Westminster has been running a small pilot scheme for oil companies for about a month to explore the technical complexities of running an account in 16 different currencies. Midland and Barclays are studying the matter and will probably offer SDR accounts soon to large depositors such as central banks and oil companies.

The IMF may welcome signs of increased interest in the SDR. But an increase in commercial SDR deposit facilities being made available to central banks might prove competition for the official substitution account once it gets under way, which the IMF hopes will be the end of this year or in 1981.

But sales of the Fiesta more than doubled from the usual monthly level in January to make it the third most popular model in the UK.

The Cortina was also freely available and the model had

the success of the Fiesta.

The Royal National Institute for the Blind has set up an experimental telephone advisory service for both blind parents and parents of blind children. It is manned by Mrs. Gill Hinds, on Northampton 407726.

## Charrington chief's will

BY ROBIN REEVES, WELSH CORRESPONDENT

THE BERNARD WARDLE group is to reconsider the decision to close its Carnarfon PVC cloth factory after a meeting with union officials and community leaders at the weekend.

The proposed closure raised a storm of protest. Three directors who went to Carnarfon for the talks were greeted by a demonstration of over 2,000 people.

Wardle's Everflex factory is the second biggest manufacturer

## Ford overtakes BL as top car maker after record month

BY KENNETH GOODING, MOTOR INDUSTRY CORRESPONDENT

FORD UK SOLD more cars in January than in any single month before. The group had a 37.83 per cent share of the UK's total new car registrations.

But while Ford was riding high with sales of 59,780 cars, BL plumb the depths. Its market share slumped to a fraction over 15 per cent, according to Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders' figures released today.

Ford overtook BL as the UK's major manufacturer in January.

Its UK-assembled cars accounted for 17.7 per cent of the market, compared with BL's 13.2 per cent (BL-assembled some Allegros in Belgium).

But to achieve its record, Ford had to import more than ever. Cars assembled outside the UK accounted for 53 per cent of the Fords registered in January, compared with 51.5 per cent in January last year.

In particular, there was a big jump in sales of Belgian-assembled Cortinas and Spanish-built Fiestas.

The success of the Fiesta helps explain why Ford did so well in January, a month when private buyers usually predominate. Ford sells the vast majority of its cars to fleet buyers and its January market share is usually relatively low.

But sales of the Fiesta more than doubled from the usual monthly level in January to make it the third most popular model in the UK.

The Cortina was also freely available and the model had

its best month for sales at 25,424. It easily maintained its position as Britain's best-seller.

The car-buying boom which ran right through last year has continued. Total January registrations reached 159,108 or 185 per cent up on January last year. Sales did not quite reach the record 182,000 of January 1973.

Mainly because of Ford's performance, imports took 59.46 per cent of total registrations compared with 53.85 per cent in January last year.

The SMMT continues to stand by its forecast that registrations will drop this year from last year's record 1.71m to about 1.5m, and that the import content will remain near 60 per cent.

Of the "traditional" importers (those which have no UK assembly base), Volvo had record January. It sold 4,294 cars, up 21 per cent on the previous January, and improved market share from 2.26 per cent to 2.7 per cent.

The Japanese share of the market fell from 8.74 per cent to 7.12 per cent in January and actual sales were down, from 13,633 to 11,311.

The top 10 models in January, according to the SMMT, were:

Ford Cortina (25,424 registered); Ford Escort (14,820); Ford Fiesta (10,095); Austin Morris Mini (6,659); Vauxhall Cavalier (5,643); Ford Capri (4,810); Ford Granada (4,806); Morris Marina (4,477); Vauxhall Chevette (4,103); Austin Allegro (3,921).

The success of the Fiesta

helps explain why Ford did so well in January, a month when private buyers usually predominate.

The group, subject of a take-over bid from Mr. Graham Farrow Lacey's Birmingham and Midland Trust, proposed to transfer Carnarfon's production of PVC cloth for vehicle upholstery to its Armbridge factory at Erbrol, Lancs, with loss of 320 jobs.

Armbridge was acquired only two years ago. Carnarfon was once the headquarters of the company.

## LABOUR

## Shipbuilders' union sees hope of deal this week

BY PHILIP BASSETT, LABOUR STAFF

BRITISH SHIPBUILDERS' union negotiations yesterday held out the prospect of an agreement over pay being reached this week in talks with the company that resume tomorrow.

The position of the State-owned British Shipbuilders has been closely compared with that of British Steel. Before the last abortive round of negotiations in January for the 80,000 shipyard workers, some union officials were saying that in some respects the company's position was even worse than that of the BSC.

Mr. Chalmers said he was optimistic that an agreement might be reached this week on pay. Both sides would have to indicate their determination to secure an agreement, though since a settlement might be enough for the company to secure new ship orders.

Union officials are expecting British Shipbuilders to table a definite offer tomorrow, although some union delegates at last month's talks felt that the

company delayed an offer to see how the steel dispute would progress.

The unions say that the shipyard workers would be unlikely to settle for less than about 17½ per cent, about the inflation rate. However, some officials wonder whether, in the light of the steel strike and other events, the shipworkers' ambitions might not have been set too high.

Any offer seems likely to fall well short of 17½ per cent and even further below the joint shipbuilding unions' original claim, worth slightly more than 20 per cent but which British Shipbuilders, having put it at 30 per cent, has made clear that it cannot meet.

## Finniston criticised

By Our Labour Staff

THE LONDON enclosed docks are expected to be at a standstill today with the start of an official strike by about 1,000 dockers, members of the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers.

A leaflet by the Transport and General Workers' Union shop stewards at the docks instructs 3,500 members in India, Millwall, Royal and Tilbury Docks not to cross NASD picket lines if requested.

The Port of London Authority described the position last night as "extremely gloomy."

There is a meeting today of the Port Labour Executive Committee, where both sides are represented. The agenda has no reference to the dispute but the Enclosed Docks Em-

## Enclosed docks face official strike today

BY GARETH GRIFFITHS, LABOUR STAFF

players' Association hopes to make a report there.

There have been frequent unofficial contacts since pay talks collapsed last week. The two unions seek 30-40 per cent and a week's extra holiday, totalling five weeks. The employers have imposed a ceiling of 12 per cent.

In the past three weeks traffic has been disrupted by one-day unofficial TGWU strikes and separate dispute involving 80 tally clerks.

A settlement at the docks would be backdated to January 1.

Negotiations have been going on since the beginning of last month and the union side feels that any agreement should reflect the figures reached by other docks' settlements, currently running at 15 per cent.

## Last Meccano rescue bid

A LAST-DITCH effort will be made this week to find a buyer for the Meccano toy factory on the Edge Hill industrial estate at Liverpool and save at least some of the plant's 940 jobs.

It follows an announcement by Airtex Industries, the parent company, to the union negotiators in London on Friday that no more money is available to increase severance pay offers.

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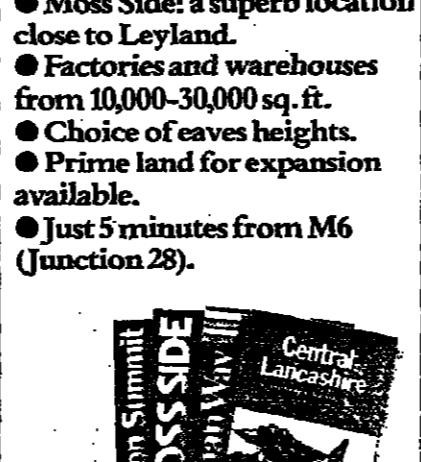
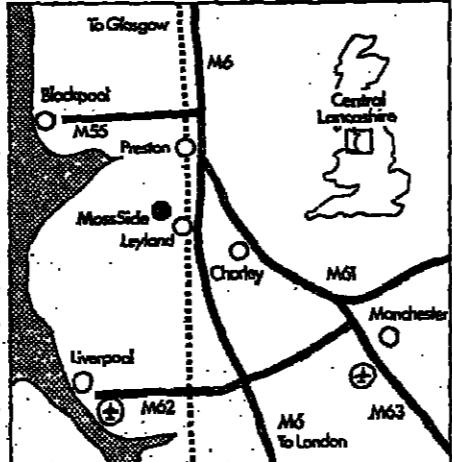
Mind you, with all the advantages the area offers, this success is hardly surprising.

Good communications, a 120,000 strong highly-skilled labour force, a comprehensive choice of factories and warehouses, a variety of housing and social amenities ... in fact, everything you'd expect of a prime industrial location.

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# While others were assessing the damage, we were paying for it.

On the morning of January 11th 1978, you might have been forgiven for mistaking the streets of Sheerness for Amsterdam or Venice.

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In the light of this thirty mile trail of devastation, it became clear to us at Commercial Union that there was only one way we could be of real help.

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LOMBARD

# The case against a 'Loi Monory'

BY SAMUEL BRITTON

IT IS AN unsurprising paradox that the very people who complain most about high tax rates and see in them a major cause of economic malaise are often to be found in the forefront of those seeking special privileges and exemptions, which can only serve to raise the tax level.

For instance a favourite idea among some Conservative MPs is to exempt from tax new small savings devoted to equity investment. New wind has been put behind its sails by the apparent success of the "Loi Monory" introduced in France for this purpose in July 1978.

Under the scheme, named after the French Economic Minister, René Monory, each household is allowed to deduct against its tax bill Frs. 5,000 (about £550) for net new investment in the shares of French companies. Investors are free to vary the composition of their portfolio—the tax concessions apply to net annual investments. The gain to the taxpayer obviously depends on his marginal tax—in France the top rate is 60 per cent.

A tell-tale sign of British Government interest in a similar idea was provided in a Question tabled by Mr. Hordern, a Conservative Back Bencher prominent in financial questions, on the cost of making the first £500 of new savings tax deductible. This brought a surprisingly clear and non-evasive Treasury Answer that it would cost £15m for every 1m basic-rate taxpayers taking full advantage of it.

Since July 1978 a million French households have taken advantage of the Loi Monory, about half of whom have entered the stock market for the first time. The scheme has attracted some £40m of new money per annum into share purchase. In the first 18 months after its enactment, share prices on the Paris bourse rose by about 40 per cent. This was not, of course, straight cause and effect. The market had already started to rise in the wake of the surprising defeat of the Left in the spring 1978 elections; and all one can fairly say is that the Loi helped to maintain the momentum.

Rather more interesting is

the close correspondence between the amount raised by French companies in new issues in 1978-79—a sharp increase over 1977—and the new funds attracted into the market by the tax concessions. There has, however, been no marked increase in corporate investment in plant and equipment. The new equity finance has been used to reduce short-term borrowing, which had become excessive.

Before jumping to any conclusion for the UK, we should remember that companies have not had the same difficulty in raising new capital as French ones—a point repeatedly emphasised to the Wilson Committee. This is linked with the much greater role of pension funds in the provision of new corporate finance on the British side of the Channel.

## Distortions

Of course the institutional domination of the British capital market is unhealthy. But it arises in very large measure from existing tax distortions. There are already tax exemptions for pension funds and life assurance. On top of this there are tax penalties on individual investors. The levying of capital gains tax on paper profits due to inflation is one serious distortion.

Savers who have actually received a negative real return still pay tax on their nominal income under an inflation-blind system which adds insult to injury. To avoid this altogether, the taxation of investment income would have to be put on an indexed basis. Meanwhile, the indexation of capital gains tax and the starting point of the investment income surcharge would help.

There is already an "incentive" to invest in gilt-edged securities in the shape of capital gains tax exemption. Instead of balancing this incentive by a rival tax incentive to invest in equities, it would surely be better to phase out all the distortions and special reliefs in the tax structure and have a less inflation-blind system of tax with lower rates. Who will join a party against all special privileges, fiscal and otherwise for capital and labour alike?

6.45 A Question of Sport.

7.15 Black's Seven.

9.00 Panorama.

9.30 News.

9.35 The Monday Film:

"Shimmering Light," starring Beau Bridges and Lloyd Bridges.

10.55 Education Matters.

11.50 News Headlines, Weather and Regional News.

All Regions as BBC 1 except as follows:

Wales—1.45-2.00 pm Pili Pala.

2.15-2.30 pm For Schools.

3.15-3.30 pm News and Weather.

Scotland—11.00-11.20 am Great Life.

12.40-12.45 The Scottish News.

5.55-6.30 Reporting Scotland.

11.50 News and Weather for Wales.

Northern Ireland—3.53-3.55 pm Northern Ireland News.

5.55-6.20 Scene Around Six.

11.50 News and weather for Northern Ireland.



BBC 1

+ Indicates programme in black and white

BBC 1

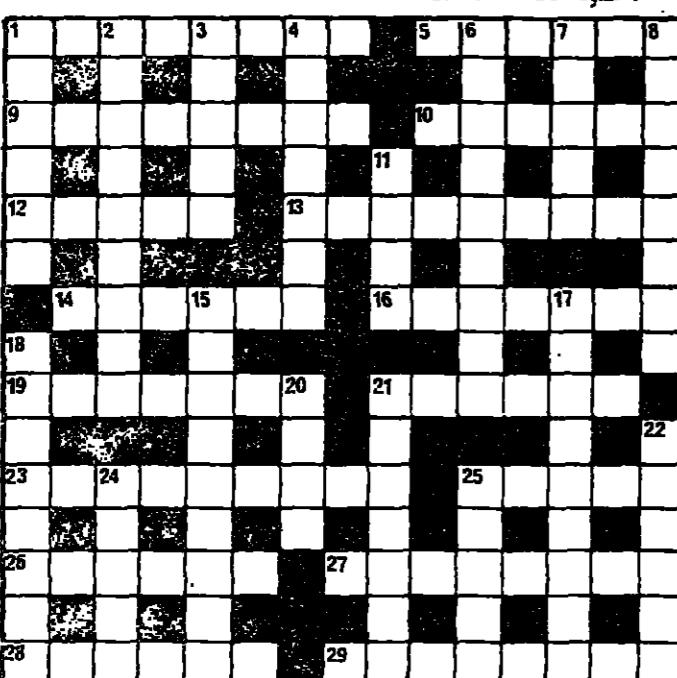
6.40-7.55 am Open University (Ultra high frequency only). 9.00 For Schools, Colleges, 11.25 You and Me, 11.40 For Schools, Colleges, 12.45 pm News, 1.00 Pebble Mill at One, 1.45 How Do You Do? 2.01 For Schools, Colleges, 3.15 Songs of Praise from Westbury Park, Bristol, 3.35 Regional News for England (except London), 3.35 Play School (as BBC 2 11.00 am), 4.20 Touch Turtle, 4.25 Jackanory, 4.40 Hey, It's the King, 5.00 John Craven's Newsround, 5.05 Blue Peter, 5.35 The Perishers.

5.40 News.

5.55 Nationwide (London and South-East only).

6.20 Nationwide.

F.T. CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 4,197



## ACROSS

- Display feathers in an open clasp (4)
- Strict way soldiers take it (6)
- Dismal article in cot given by Confederate soldier (4)
- Storm about in deep, narrow gorge (6)
- A piece that's separate (5)
- Deer to view in wisdom after the event (9)
- Pit-headgear operator could be on watch (6)
- Declare in favour of iron ship (7)
- Nuts lie in disorder in vessel (7)
- I'd return after time and swell out (6)
- Household right that is a place for wild animals (9)
- Time to be strained? (5)
- On horseback with the sound of cannon in commotion (6)
- Not readily moved but I'm joining gang going to French Island (8)
- Two letters in tent (6)
- I drink in examination and it's novel (8)

The solution of last Saturday's prize puzzle will be published with names of winners next Saturday.

# 'ONE COUNTRY'S TAXES CANNOT BE COLLECTED IN ANOTHER'

# When the law may cross frontiers

IT IS A well-known principle of international law that the courts of one country will not lend themselves, directly or indirectly, to enforcing the laws of another foreign state.

Thus it is not possible for taxes exacted in one country to be collected in another. Nor may customs and excise provisions be enforced.

The rule applies as much to the criminal as to the civil law. Extradition, however, is an exception to the general principle that foreign penal laws cannot be enforced. However, treaties of extradition and our own legislation on extradition specifically do not permit the return of fugitive criminals accused of offences against the State, such as treason and sedition, or fiscal crimes such as breaches of exchange control or value added tax.

In 1977 he had come to realise that the future fortunes of aliens in Ghana were anything but rosy, so he decided to leave the country with his family, taking with him as much of his personal wealth as he could.

Elder Dempster Line, the well-known shipping company.

Faced with presentation of those documents, the Bank of Ghana gave permission for the payment of foreign currency by means of debts on the bank's accounts with its correspondents

before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate at Bow Street, on a warrant from the Home Secretary that the former should proceed to determine whether a prima facie case was made out against Mr. Khubchandani, the charges were laid under Sec-

Act 1934, by the Securities and Exchange Commission, which alleged that a number of people controlling a company incorporated in the Bahamas were involved in fraudulent practices.

The American judge appointed a receiver to take possession of certain assets, including all the shares and assets of another company effectively controlled by the Bahamian company, and of the assets of the former company's subsidiaries.

A similar argument, however, failed to impress the Divisional Court last November in the case involving the extradition of two senior executives of the Church of Scientology who were refused leave last Thursday to appeal to the House of Lords.

They were arguing that the charges of burglary against them for allegedly having侵入ed, from their office at East Grinstead, their colleagues in Washington DC to enter public buildings and steal Government information about the church was a disguise for the real offence of breaching the official secrets laws of the U.S. Offences against official secrets laws are not, in themselves, extraditable.

The Ghana Government, by contrast with the two Scientologists obtained from the High Court leave to appeal to the House of Lords. Soon there will be an authoritative ruling on the precise limits of the power to return fugitives from fiscal laws.

\* [1975] 1 Ch. 273.

† Kemper and Budlong v. U.S. Government.

In effect, the Securities and

## Fictitious documents

He set about getting his money in Ghanaian cedis converted into U.S. dollars and Deutsche marks. He did so by bringing into existence wholly fictitious documentation indicating the shipment of goods from Ghana to abroad, for which foreign currency was required to pay the foreign companies supposedly selling and shipping the goods. Included among the documentation was a forged bill of lading on the newspaper of Liberia on a charge of

stealing a similar amount of money from the Ghana Government, an acknowledgment that the true offence was that of fraudulently obtaining foreign currency, thereby seriously defeating the foreign currency reserves of the Ghana Government. That attempt failed because Ghana had no treaty of extradition with Liberia.)

In the subsequent proceedings

in New York and Hamburg shortly after the funds were made available abroad in dollars and Deutsche marks, Mr. Khubchandani left Ghana.

On the eve of Christmas, 1978, he was arrested at London Airport on a warrant charging him with the theft from Mr. Khubchandani's group of Ghanaian companies, to the tune of 20m cedis. (A few months earlier, an attempt had been made to have him extradited from Liberia on a charge of

stealing £100,000 from the Ghanaian Government.)

Under the Fugitive Offenders Act, 1967, one of the listed items describing the extraditable crime was "stealing, embezzlement, fraudulent conversion, obtaining property or credit by false pretences, receiving stolen property or any other offence in respect of property involving fraud."

Was the fact that the breaches of Ghana's exchange control were perpetrated by fraud enough to bring the case within the list of extraditable crimes?

The Divisional Court held that it was not. It relied on a decision in 1974 of Mr. Justice Goulding in *Schemmer v. Property Resources Ltd.* In that case, proceedings had been started in a district court of the U.S. under the U.S. Securities Exchange

## Computer figures on the Flat

TIMEFORM has brought forward for this year the publication date of its Flat annual Timeform Computer Time Figures of 1979.

This neat volume (£9.00 from Timeform, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX1 1XE), now on sale,

## RACING

BY DOMINIC WIGAN

lists the complete time performances of over 3,200 horses. For each horse there is the date, track and position at the finish, the race distance, state of going and computer-calculated time figures recorded on each of its cuttings on courses having Watasta or Omega timing equipment.

Many readers of Phil Bull's article, which also looks to the future, will be heartened to hear his views on the prospects of that phenomenally tough and consistent three-year-old, Kris.

Although the publication shows, according to Bull, that 1979 two-year-olds presented us with two classic level performances" in runs by Lord Seymour and Varingo I cannot agree with his view that either (particularly the former) is a "live 2000 candidate."

Incidentally, I anticipate Lester Piggott, rather than Lord Seymour's Mill Reef Stakes partner Pat Fiddes, being aboard the Stout colt whenever he is not required by O'Brien.

Phil Bull's introduction to his volume tells what is involved in calculating race times, how to interpret them and how to use them to the best advantage in profitable betting.

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## THE ARTS

Elizabeth Hall

## Malcolm's Bach

by DOMINIC GILL

As a foil to the kind of "authentic" performance of Baroque music on contemporary instruments more common today, it is salutary to hear Bach played from time to time in the good-fashioned, timeless, dateless English-romantic style—if only to be reminded not just how good, but how much better, the "authentic" performances are, and what a muddle of inconsistencies they have successfully resolved.

At the English Chamber Orchestra's Bach concert on Friday evening muddle was announced from the start. The distinguished harpsichordist George Malcolm forsook his rightful seat at the continuo for the rostrum—to conduct an orchestra who are, as they have proved on countless occasions, capable of playing music that was never designed to be conducted, very well (and often better) by themselves. But that's a moot point: much more remarkable than Mr. Malcolm's arguably redundant position in the hall was what he did while he was there.

From the very first notes of the Overture of Bach's third Suite, he seized the music by the neck, and with huge, flailing gestures tossed it around as if he were directing a hundred and fifty players, and choir to boot, in Mahler's eighth symphony. It was a relief to find that the performers did not after all take a great deal of notice of this extraordinary display, and as Mr. Malcolm pivoted like a bandsaw, calling for some divine, massive crescendo from his little group, they responded quite decently with a perfectly normal-sized, country-gentlemanly swell. But the visual effect—the inconsistency between gesture and sound, was both distracting and preposterous.

This kind of concert was bound to announce Bach's E major harpsichord concerto as a "piano concerto in E", and so it did indeed, although the faint hope that Mr. Malcolm (who plays both instruments) might be enticed away from the rostrum thereby was dashed when the very gifted Hungarian (and Malcolm pupil) András Schiff took his seat at the piano. It was a pretty, and in its slow movement exceedingly prettified performance—the Siciliano spun out *moto rubato* like a Chopin Nocturne, with all manner of (in every sense) offbeat accents and colours,

curious halfway house somewhere between Landowska and Cherkassky, but without the irresistible conviction and character of either.

The concerto for two harpsichords in C minor (BWV 1060) does for a change certainly make its best effect in its unauthenticated but probably original form (reconstructed by Max Schneider in 1924) as a D minor concerto for violin and oboe. The soloists here were the ECO's leader José-Luis García and Neil Black, who both by the very nature of their roles took over the main lines of direction from Mr. Malcolm, who stood firm on the rostrum nonetheless, to give a performance that was neat enough, sweet but uncloaked.

And eventually, Mr. Malcolm sat down where he belonged, in front of a keyboard, and Mr. Schiff at another, to play Bach's "Concerto in C for two pianos"; and that was the best part of the evening by far. It was a wistful, late-romantic reading, not a great deal to do with Bach as we know it today, but none the worse at heart for that; and best of all once the aching rubati of the Adagio were over, in the finale bright, firm, and forthright.

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

## English watercolours

by BRIONY LLEWELLYN

In 1953 the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery received from J. Leslie Wright, shortly before his death, the greater part of his magnificent collection of English watercolours and drawings. It added a new dimension to it's already well-stocked holdings, making it one of the largest and most important in the country. Not before time, 27 years later, space and conditions have been created to display (until March 20) a select 70 of the 400 plus in the bequest, the first time that any quantity have been seen together since the entire collection was exhibited at the Royal Academy for four weeks in 1949.

They make a fine showing, valuable in themselves, and for what they reveal of a certain taste bounded by what was available during the first half of this century. Although a fraction of the prices they would be today, one necessity for their acquisition was, of course, money amply provided by the successful business J. Leslie Wright built up in the metal manufacturing industry between the 1880's and the 1920's.

His collection shows a preference for the 18th century. A local newspaper at the time

of the gift quoted that Mr. Wright was "proud of being among the early admirers of Towne's monochromatic *Near Rocca di Papa*, its thickly foliaged trees making near-abstraction patterns, the *raison d'être* of the picture. The play of light and shade on trees and rocks is the theme of the powerful *Canzonetta*, *Deron*, by Towne's pupil, John White Abbott.

Strong in the early period, the exhibition does not excel in the work of later generations.

Although there are at least eight Turners in the bequest, none is hung and two of the over 50 Girtins shown are badly faded.

Sandy and Rowlandson, elegant and witty portrayers of English life, are much in evidence, the Rowlandsons refreshingly, marked by a gentle rather than a coarse humour. An un-dramatic but lively English rural and urban existence is the keynote of many of the drawings in the exhibition. These include some by artists of whom little is known: James Miller and John Donowell, their townscapes brisk and individual.

Bonington is better served, his spidery, wide-angled view of Paris contrasting with the warm, bulky *Fishing smacks in a French harbour*. Peter de Wint's peaceful scene of cows seeking shade, the pigments soaked into the thick, wet paper, exemplifies the liberation of English water-colour paintings from the tinted drawings of the 18th century.

The illustrated catalogue for the exhibition also lists the works in the bequest not displayed. Its introductory essay summarises the English water-colour tradition but provides little detail as to how J. Leslie Wright amassed his remarkable collection.

Theatre Upstairs

## The Key Tag by MICHAEL COVENY

Over three years ago I thought that Michael McGrath had written a very promising play inside a cloak of superfluous guff. Catching up with him again, I now realise the problem is different. He knows what he wants to say but cannot hit upon the best theatrical means to express it. We start in the back room of a market town fashion shop, with a young married couple arriving in answer to an advertisement for new management. Rachel and Harry are quitting to move to the country and a Georgian manse.

They have a foster child, Rita (Veronica Quilligan), who justifies the play's inclusion in the "Sense of Ireland" festival by revealing she was born in an Irish ditch and is now resentfully planning her own destruction. The new couple are drawn with bewildering speed

into scenes of domestic show-down and adulterous flirtation. It takes a long time for Mr. McGrath to start writing the play he is after, which is really about dissatisfaction in marriage and the confessional speeches of one party to another. To this end, the partners retire, Harry (*Noel Collins*) giving Pamela (*Diana Patrick*) clothes from the store to change into and Rachel (*Marina Connell*) descending on Flirtan (*Patrick Drury*), full of worms after her biology evening class, with a menopausal tale of woes. She then skips off to meet a foreign lover in the car park.

Before the rather forced and unlikely apocalyptic conclusion—which suggests that Mr. McGrath is having as much trouble finishing his play as he had starting it—Rita, who is also Irish, is treated to some bizarre antics by Miss Quilligan involving

an improvised electric chair and a mutilated, bandaged doll. None of the performances, except that of Miss Quilligan, are delivered with much punch or conviction, and the direction of Roger Michell is fitful to say the least.

## Ziegler to write Mountbatten biography

Philip Ziegler, 50, editor-in-chief at Collins and author of biographies of Lord Melbourne and William IV, has been appointed to write the official biography of Lord Mountbatten. Mr. Ziegler will start work early next year on this project. He is now at work on a biography of Lady Diana Cooper.

At present a biography of Mountbatten is being written by Richard Hough which Weidenfeld are hoping to publish in the autumn.

SOCCER BY TREVOR BAILEY

## Keegan and Brady analysed

KEVIN KEEGAN supplied both goals and most of the sparkle in England's win over Ireland at Wembley. Without his inspired bursts forward, Ron Greenwood's team looked no more than competent—although David Johnson did make a most impressive return to the international scene, until sadly carried off on a stretcher.

The injury to Liverpool's lead forward provides a perfect example of the uncertainties of football, especially if one plays for that club. Nobody can afford to be injured or suspended, because they may not be able to get back into the first team immediately.

Johnson's replacement on Saturday, Fairclough, celebrated with a hat-trick. If he continues in that fashion, Liverpool's manager will have a difficult selection problem. It underlines Liverpool's strength, and could mean Johnson will not be guaranteed a place.

England was captained by Keegan, who has made a fortune and taken Europe by storm. Liam Brady, who wants to leave Arsenal and do likewise, led the opposition. It was inevitable

that people would compare these two world-class players, especially as both were used in midfield, at least until Keegan took over from Johnson up front. But both their style and their roles were entirely different.

Stapleton, although making many mistakes than usual, still caused many problems. He is particularly good when facing his own goal and tightly-marked while his determination and enthusiasm mean that he frequently pressures defenders into mistakes.

He is the type of centre-forward every manager wants: brave, a good finisher never stops running and is still improving. O'Leary covered so well from the middle of the Gunners' back four that certain deficiencies on either flank were camouflaged.

Keegan is a natural poacher with exceptional energy and speed off the mark, which enables him to hustle and bustle for 90 minutes. He is so good and nippy that when he is in possession he is automatically a danger to any defence. This could be clearly seen against England in the way he combined with Stapleton, with whom he has naturally

developed a special understanding. A perfectly placed free kick all but produced a goal.

Keegan, whose speed is seldom less than frenetic, has fewer problems slotting into any pattern or formation.

He is less subtle and relies so much on his instinctive individualism.

The Arsenal Irish contingent, Brady, Stapleton and O'Leary, were all on duty against Aston Villa, who were beaten by 3-1 and given a footballing lesson.

His style is graceful and often deliberately languid, which allows him to change the pace of a game. He orchestrates for the whole team, and depends very much on his colleagues anticipating his moves.

This could be clearly seen against England in the way he combined with Stapleton, with whom he has naturally



Dinah Harris and Henry Herford in "The Marriage of Figaro"

Festival Theatre, Malvern

## Opera 80 by MAX LOPPERT

Opera 80 is the "new, independent company, supported by the Arts Council, which has been specifically created to provide fully staged productions in those areas which are outside the normal touring venues of the main companies." The purpose behind its foundation has been to build upon the foundations laid by the recently disbanded Opera for All, the most important developments in the new company being the addition of a small orchestra and more ambitious attitude to production.

In its first touring season (which began a fortnight ago in Weymouth) the company is presenting a "Beaumarchais duo"

—*The Barber of Seville* and *The Marriage of Figaro*, given on successive evenings in the proper narrative order.

I caught up with the company's activities in Malvern last week and was refreshed and encouraged by them. This is hardly the most propitious of seasons in which to set up a new operatic venture; after the experience of the two operas in these unpretentious vital and characterful performances, the courage of the Arts Council in doing so seems not rash but sage. Large, enthusiastic audiences have been the general response so far, indicating that the need was real, and is being met.

The producer of both operas is Stewart Trotter; Stephen

Barlow conducts *The Barber* and Nicholas Kraemer (*Opera 80's* musical director) *Figaro*. A single set, built of serviceable, rather ugly wooden panels (the kind of which department store changing rooms are usually constructed), quickly transforms itself with the addition of attractive basic props into the various scenes of both operas. Roles and supporting parts are shared out with admirable fairness among the young company of 13 so, for example, Catherine McCord and Rex Taylor-Craig, Rosina and Figaro in *Rossini*, help to supply the "chorus" of peasants.

People in the audience encountering the operas for the first time—reactions of delight and surprise betrayed at Malvern a high proportion of these—are to be envied. Mr. Trotter and his players have discovered a just balance, a manner at once intimate and energetic, for both operas. There is continuity of style as far as very different works will allow it, and a differentiation of tone when, in *Figaro*, with its seriousness and amplitude of emotion unknown in the earlier comedy, it becomes necessary. Except when mistress and maid sit arm in arm during the *Figaro* letter scene, historical values are properly respected: equally, modern insights—Rosina is bespectacled and bookish—are suggested

without being insisted upon. And yet, more than by several recent "big house" productions, we are taken close to the brimming gaiety and good humour of both Rossini and Mozart.

By the orchestra, too: the absence of a proper pit in the Festival Theatre and the more even balance between wind and string numbers conspired to turn up an unusual number of bubbling, buoyant figures often subdued in larger theatres.

No star singer emerged from either performance: no role was less than decently taken. Most of the tests of Rossini florid singing were scraped through rather than passed. Brian Parsons (Almaviva) needed more volume, the Figaro less harshness at the top, and the very attractive Rosina more reliable intonation.

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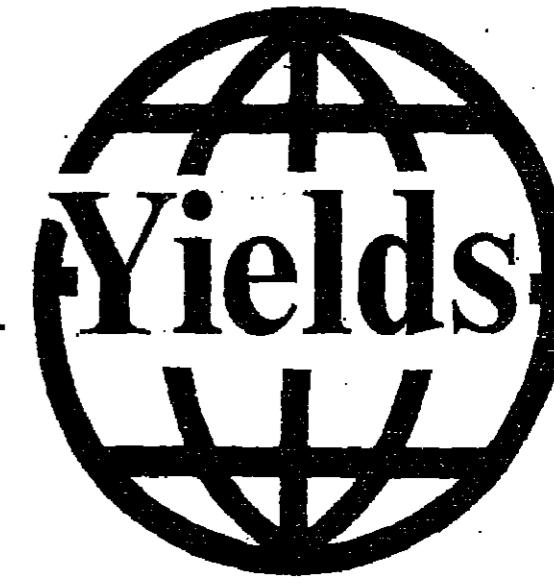
## FINANCIAL TIMES

## Eurobond Quotations and Yields

AIBD

THE ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL BOND DEALERS

At 31st JANUARY 1980



The Association of International Bond Dealers (AIBD) compiles current market quotations and yields for Eurobond issues. These quotations and yields are published weekly by the Financial Times. The Association's prices and yields are compiled from quotations obtained from market-makers on the last working day of each month. There is no single stock exchange for Eurobonds in the usually recognised sense—secondary market trading business is done on the telephone between dealers scattered across the world's major financial centres. Membership of the AIBD (which was established in 1969) comprises over 450 institutions from about 27 countries.

## Eurobonds in January

BY FRANCIS GHILES

The mood of the international bonds markets—at least so far as the major dollar sector is concerned, can only be described today as one of doom and despondency.

Currency unrest disappeared for the time being but the large rise in the price of gold, the events in Afghanistan, and, towards the end of January, the

fear of even higher U.S. interest rates combined to keep investors well away from the bond market.

The lack of interest displayed by investors in buying dollar bonds did not lead them to acquire harder currency paper in great quantity, especially during the second half of January. While borrowers were

piling in to both sectors before interest rates and coupons reached new highs, investors were understandably reluctant to buy too much paper, especially when issued by borrowers with less than prime credentials.

However, as the end of January approached and interest rates and coupons rose in both

sectors, buying activity picked up, by no means all of it coming from abroad.

Every mini-rally witnessed in the dollar sector of the bond market last month proved to be shorter than its predecessor. While prices proved reasonably steady earlier in the month, they started falling fast later on when fears of renewed inflationary pressures following President Carter's decision to step up spending on arms became widespread. The hoped-for recession seemed to vanish from sight.

By February 1, some bond analysts were arguing that falls of between 10 and 20 basis points were necessary on prime straight dollar names in the event of U.S. rates rising to 18 per cent and the current inverse yield curve being turned around. Many straight bonds were offering close to, if not above, 13 per cent yields at the end of January yet never has the market been so dead, according to many bonds dealers outside holiday periods. Many of these sold slowly and opened at sharp discounts in the secondary market as soon as they started trading.

By and large the Deutsche Mark sector had a good month. A record DM 1.1bn worth of new D-Mark issues was floated in the four weeks to January 25 though the last few issues in the calendar had to have their coupons increased to attract sufficient investor support. The smaller calendar announced for February—DM 740m—should go some way towards cutting inventories while the

number of issues quoted in the market kept shrinking.

The FRN sector is no longer immune as many investors seem perplexed by the wild interest rate fluctuations over very short periods of time which characterised the market last autumn. FRNs seem less fool-proof as a method of protecting capital than they did before.

With the exception of a \$40m straight issue for the ECSC at the beginning of January, all new issues in the dollar sector were accounted for by floating rate notes and convertibles.

Many of these sold slowly and opened at sharp discounts in the secondary market as soon as they started trading.

Other ideas are being discussed—such as gold or oil linked bonds—but, to date practical difficulties have prevented any such paper materialising.

The Sterling sector had a mixed month. One of the largest ever such bonds was launched, a £50m ten year one for Citicorp. Despite a coupon of 13% per cent, it started trading at a discount, such as to push up the yield offered to 14.30 per cent. A second issue for FFI, was expected but delayed at the eleventh hour because of difficulties the borrower was facing in setting up an offshore borrowing subsidiary in Holland. FFI was forced into this peculiar position by a recent change of practice at the UK Inland Revenue.

The problems of the Swiss Franc sector are very comparable to those in the Deutsche Mark one. Here again higher coupons proved to be the answer and, by the end of January, the market was looking much healthier than a few weeks before.

A second Norwegian denominated issue was arranged last month, for the City of Oslo. It met with a very favourable reception but it seems unlikely that the Ministry of Finance in Norway has any intention of granting permission to issue such bonds other than on a highly selective basis. Rumours towards the end of the month that Banque Nationale de Paris was about to launch an SDR-linked bond proved to be unfounded but the bank is understood to be studying the feasibility of such an animal.

A subsidiary of data STREAM International

COMPILED FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL BOND DEALERS BY INTERBOND SERVICES LTD. \*

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## Creditanstalt—Market Makers in Austrian Schilling Bonds and International Bonds of Austrian Issuers.

Selected Austrian Schilling Bonds*	Middle Market Price [25.1.80]	Yield to average life	Current Yield	Redemption
8 1/2% Wien 1974/B/84	100,25	8,34	8,48	2. 7,75-84
8 % Österreich 1974/B/82	103,60	8,21	7,72	1. 4,76-82 at 104,0 to 104,5 MD
8 1/2% Österreich 1975/S/83	101,25	8,26	8,39	5. 3,76-83 at 100,0 to 101,0 MD
8 1/2% Innsbruck 1974/B/82	100,75	8,27	8,44	19,11,75-82 at 100,5 MD

Maturity up to 5 years	Middle Market Price [25.1.80]	Yield to average life	Current Yield	Redemption
8 1/2% Österreich 1976/S/86	102,25	8,45	8,31	20. 2,81-86 at 101,5 to 104,0 MD
8 % Österreich 1977/I/B/86	98,25	8,36	8,14	15. 9,82-86
7 3/4% Österreich 1978/IV/C/86	96,50	8,45	8,03	1. 9,86
8 % Arlberg Straßentunnel 1977/B/85	98,75	8,48	8,10	29. 7,80-85
8 1/2% Energie 1975/I/B+S/85	103,—	8,37	8,25	29,10,79-85 at 103,5 MD
8 % Energie 1977/S/I/B/86	98,50	8,38	8,12	4,10,82-86
8 1/2% Steyr-Daimler-Puch 1976/B/86	102,75	8,48	8,27	9. 3,81-86 at 103,0 to 104,0 MD
8 % VÖEST-Alpine 1977/B/86	98,25	8,46	8,14	15,11,82-86
8 1/2% CA-BV 1975/I/B/85	101,75	8,26	8,35	11,11,76-85 at 101,0 to 101,5 MD
8 % OKB Export 1978/II/C/86	98,25	8,35	8,14	20. 6,86
8 % Inter-Am. Development Bank 1976/86	98,25	8,49	8,14	17,12,81-86

\*Interest is payable without deduction for or on account of Austrian taxes.

### Selected International Bonds of Austrian Issuers

ISSUE	Middle Market Price [25.1.80]	Yield to average life	Current Yield	Redemption
5 3/4% Alpine Montan 1965/85	92,75	7,36	6,20	15. 6,72-85 SF
6 5/8% Austrian Electricity 1966/86	97,50	7,45	6,79	1. 7,70-86 SF
6 3/4% Austrian Electricity 1967/82	97,25	8,51	6,94	1,10,71-82 SF
6 % Republic of Austria 1964/84	97,25	7,46	6,17	31. 1,71-84 SE
6 3/4% Republic of Austria 1967/82	97,25	9,19	6,94	15. 3,72-82 SF
8 3/4% Republic of Austria 1976/90	83,75	11,55	10,45	15. 8,78-90 SF
8 1/4% Tauernautobahn 1977/87	83,75	12,12	9,85	15. 3,83-87 SF
DM				
5 3/4% Österreich 1978/90	86,—	8,00	6,69	1,11,85-90 SF
6 3/4% VÖEST 1977/89	94,—	7,86	7,18	1. 6,84-89 SF
7 % Taurenkraftwerke 1986/83	98,50	8,05	7,11	1. 2,74-83 SF

For current prices and further information please contact:  
For Austrian Schilling Bonds: Robert Jekl, Robert Wasinger (Telephone: 6622/1701, 1707, Telex: 74261-63)  
For International Bonds: Walter Vogl (Telephone: 6622/2222, Telex: 136948)

Code for Reuter Monitor Securities Program: CA DA, CA DB



**Creditanstalt**

Creditanstalt-Bankverein, Schottengasse 6, A-1010 Vienna.







Financial Times Monday February 11 1980

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**Future publication dates for AIRD  
supplements are:**

<b>MARCH</b>	11th
<b>APRIL</b>	14th
<b>MAY</b>	14th
<b>JUNE</b>	11th
<b>JULY</b>	14th
<b>AUGUST</b>	12th

# INVESTMENT FUNDS

The following funds include Eurobond issues within their portfolios

## **Quotations & yields as at 31st January, 1980**

SOCIETE GENERALE De BANQUE

## **BANQUE GENERALE DU LUXEMBOURG**

Fund	31/1/80	Price	First Issue Price	Yield %	Div. Date	1/2/79 High	31/1/80 Low	1/2/77 High	31/1/80 Low
Rentinvest	LuxFr 765	LuxFr 1000	8.68	20/11/79 (FSS)		LuxFr 860	LuxFr 752	LuxFr 918	LuxFr 752
Capital Rentinvest	LuxFr 1366	LuxFr 1000		(Capitalisation)		LuxFr 1430	LuxFr 1346	LuxFr 1430	LuxFr 1166

# **WestLB Euro-Deutschmarkbond Quotations (Continued)**

Issue	Middle Price	Current Yield	Life <sup>a</sup>	Yield to Maturity <sup>a</sup>	Repayment D=mandatory S=sinking fund P=purchase fund
8% South-Afr. Oil Fund 79/83 PP (G)	97.00	8.25	3.75	8.96	1.11.83
4% South-Afr. Oil Fund 79/84 PP (G)	95.00	8.16	4.08	8.27	1. 3.84
4% South-Afr. Railway 73/88 (G)	94.85	7.91	8.33	8.37	1. 6.79-88S
4% South-Afr. Railway 75/80 PP (G)	100.00	9.25	0.33	8.97	due 1. 6.78-90D
4% South-Afr. Railway 75/80 (G)	100.00	9.25	0.42	8.00	1. 7.80
4% South-Afr. Railway 77/80 PP (G)	98.00	8.42	0.50	12.35	1. 8.79-90D
8% South-Afr. Railway 78/81 PP (G)	95.50	8.29	0.92	12.21	2. 1.81
4% South-Afr. Railway 78/82 PP (G)	97.00	7.99	2.25	9.25	1. 5.82
8% South-Afr. Railway 78/83 I PP (G)	97.50	8.21	3.42	8.86	1. 7.83
8% South-Afr. Railway 78/83 II PP (G)	96.00	8.16	3.58	8.55	1. 9.83
4% South-Afr. Railway 78/83 PP (G)	96.50	8.03	3.83	8.85	1. 12.83
7% South Scotl. St. 73/83 (G)	98.50	7.25	8.00	7.80	1. 2.78-88S
4% Spain 77/84	96.25	7.01	4.50	7.75	1. 8.84
6% Spain 78/88	98.00	6.82	8.25	8.04	1. 5.88
Sparbank Oslo 78/80PP	98.00	6.82	5.44	8.86	16. 9.81-90D
4% Standard Imp. & Exp. 78/82PP	97.00	7.98	2.50	9.11	1. 8.82
4% Stand. Chart. Bank 78/88	91.00	7.14	7.92	8.08	1. 1.88
6% Statoil 78/88 (G)	87.90	6.83	8.58	7.98	1. 9.84-88S
4% Statoil 79/89 (G)	91.25	7.12	9.08	7.88	1. 3.88-89S
7% Statsforetag 77/85	98.25	7.27	5.08	7.92	1. 3.82-86D
4% Steiermark 74/80PP	100.00	10.00	0.67	9.83	1. 10.80
4% Stockholm County 75/87	100.50	8.71	4.00	8.58	1. 4.79-87D
4% Sumhomlo Metal 75/82	100.50	8.46	2.42	8.22	1. 7.82
4% Sun Oil int. Fin. 73/88	98.00	7.68	8.50	7.65	1. 8.79-88S
4% Svenska Cell 73/88	98.75	7.34	8.00	7.46	1. 2.78-88S
3% Svenska Etsendt. 75/95	102.00	8.82	2.47	8.08	1. 3.80-85S
4% Sveriges Inv. Bz. 72/87	98.00	6.89	7.08	7.12	1. 3.78-87S
7% Sveriges Inv. Bz. 73/88	98.80	7.10	8.08	7.23	1. 3.79-88S
4% Sveriges Inv. Bz. 75/83	100.50	8.46	1.78	8.14	1. 6.80-83S
4% Sweden 77/84	95.25	8.82	4.25	7.84	1. 5.84
3% Sweden 77/88	87.35	8.88	9.83	7.91	1. 12.83-88S
4% Sweden 79/89	99.00	7.83	9.41	7.89	1. 7.89
4% Sweden 79/89PP	98.25	7.63	9.50	7.76	1. 8.89
4% Taisai Corp. 75/80PP	100.00	9.50	0.12	9.11	due 16. 3.80
4% Tauernautobahn 74/81 (G)	101.00	9.41	1.42	8.85	1. 7.81
3% Tauernautobahn 75/82PP (G)	101.25	8.88	2.08	8.31	1. 3.82
3% Tauernautobahn 75/83PP (G)	100.75	8.93	3.08	8.70	1. 3.83
2% Tauernautobahn 78/83 (G)	80.75	6.81	13.17	7.90	1. 4.84-83S
2% Tauenkraftwerke 68/83 (G)	88.50	7.11	1.97	7.99	1. 2.74-83D
3% Tauenkraftwerke 68/83 (G)	98.80	6.58	3.58	7.00	1. 9.74-83S
3% Tanfinco 73/83	98.00	8.16	13.75	8.24	1. 11.82-88S
4% Thailand 78/83PP	100.00	9.50	2.08	9.48	1. 3.82
4% Thyssen Car. Fin. 75/82PP	100.50	8.46	2.17	8.21	1. 4.82
4% Thyssen Car. Fin. 75/82PP	100.00	8.25	2.42	8.21	1. 7.82
4% Thyssen Inv. Bz. 66/81	99.10	6.56	1.03	7.38	1. 3.72-81D
4% Tokyo El. Power 69/84	98.00	7.40	2.75	8.23	1. 12.75-84D
2% Tokyo El. Power 79/85	83.50	6.35	5.25	8.06	1. 5.88
4% Toray Ind. 75/80PP	100.00	8.50	0.02	9.98	due 10. 2.80
4% Toyo Rubber 78/83PP	90.50	8.08	3.57	8.81	1. 10.83
4% Traf. House Fin. 72/87	96.40	6.74	7.67	7.12	1. 10.78-87S
3% Trinidad & Tobago 78/83	92.75	6.47	3.17	8.70	1. 4.83
4% Trondheim 68/83	96.50	6.99	3.83	7.97	1. 12.72-83S
4% Trondheim 78/88	85.75	8.71	7.14	8.48	1. 4.88-88D
4% T R W (Int. Fin. 69/84	98.50	7.61	4.67	8.04	1. 10.75-84S
4% T V O Power 78/83 (G)	87.00	6.90	8.00	8.29	1. 2.84-88S
4% UDS Group 78/83	90.50	6.35	3.58	8.34	1. 9.83
4% Unilever 74/81 PP	101.50	9.61	1.83	8.79	1. 12.81
4% Unilever 76/87	102.00	8.33	4.58	7.95	1. 5.81-87S
4% Union Bank Finland 78/88	89.50	7.26	8.87	8.21	16. 12.84-88S
4% Unroyal 78/84 PP	88.75	6.48	4.50	8.87	1. 8.84
4% Unit. Arab Emirates 77/82PP	95.00	7.11	2.25	9.29	30. 4.82
4% Venezuela 68/85	98.40	7.11	3.67	7.64	1. 10.78-83S
4% Venezuela 78/88	84.85	7.07	8.08	8.68	1. 3.84-88S
4% Vienna 68/83	87.00	7.47	10.75	8.37	1. 11.88-80S
4% Vienna 75/84	97.50	7.18	3.33	8.02	1. 6.74-83S
4% Vienna 77/84 PP	100.75	8.19	2.42	7.88	1. 8.79-84D
4% Voest-Alpine 73/89	91.00	6.32	4.87	8.05	15. 12.84
4% Voest-Alpine 75/85	102.25	8.31	4.61	7.88	1. 10.79-85S
4% Voest-Alpine 77/88	101.15	8.40	3.28	8.06	1. 6.81-85D
4% Wells-Fargo ex. w. 72/88	92.75	7.28	6.72	8.18	1. 6.84-88D
4% Worldbank 65/85	92.00	7.07	8.75	7.79	1. 11.73-88S
4% Worldbank 68/80	97.50	5.64	5.17	6.18	1. 4.71-88S
4% Worldbank 68/84PP	98.40	6.54	5.00	7.64	1. 8.80
4% Worldbank 68/84	98.50	6.74	2.37	8.17	2. 1.77-84D
4% Worldbank 68/84PP	98.10	6.76	2.25	8.61	1. 6.75-84D
4% Worldbank 69/84PP	98.50	6.74	2.37	8.17	2. 1.77-84D
4% Worldbank 70/80	95.75	8.27	2.62	7.84	1. 4.77-84D
4% Worldbank 70/86	99.85	8.51	0.50	9.01	1. 8.80
4% Worldbank 71/86 I	101.15	7.81	3.31	7.59	1. 1.77-86D
4% Worldbank 71/86 II	98.35	7.63	3.18	8.08	1. 6.77-86D
4% Worldbank 72/82	98.50	7.61	3.68	7.37	1. 12.77-86D
4% Worldbank 72/87	97.00	8.70	2.42	7.88	1. 7.82
4% Worldbank 73/83	94.50	7.14	3.37	8.70	1. 3.79-80D
4% Worldbank 73/88	98.25	7.01	3.00	8.21	1. 2.63
4% Worldbank 75/82PP	92.75	6.87	3.98	8.59	1. 5.79-88S
4% Worldbank 75/82	100.50	8.21	2.33	7.97	1. 6.82
4% Worldbank 75/83	100.40	7.97	2.83	7.82	1. 12.82
4% Worldbank 76/82PP	99.00	8.17	3.42	7.88	1. 7.82
4% Worldbank 76/82PP	99.75	7.77	2.67	7.83	1. 10.82
4% Worldbank 76/83	99.25	7.56	3.26	7.76	1. 5.83
4% Worldbank 78/83PP	99.25	7.81	3.67	7.97	1. 10.83
4% Worldbank 76/84	95.00	7.11	3.83	8.31	1. 12.83
4% Worldbank 77/82PP	100.35	7.97	4.00	7.89	1. 2.84
4% Worldbank 77/86PP	94.00	5.95	2.62	8.11	15. 9.82
4% Worldbank 77/86PP	96.75	7.24	5.08	7.79	1. 3.85
4% Worldbank 77/86	92.25	7.05	5.25	8.37	1. 5.85
4% Worldbank 77/87	91.75	6.54	5.62	7.86	16. 9.86
4% Worldbank 77/87	92.50	7.57	6.92	8.47	1. 1.87
4% Worldbank 78/84	90.00	7.22	7.25	8.39	1. 5.87
4% Worldbank 78/85	91.00	6.32	4.50	8.21	1. 8.84
4% Worldbank 78/88	88.10	6.97	8.50	8.34	1. 8.85
4% Worldbank 78/88	87.00	7.18	8.83	8.39	1. 12.85
4% Worldbank 78/90	83.10	6.82	8.45	8.65	1. 2.87-88S
4% Worldbank 79/85PP	98.25	7.12	5.50	7.43	1. 8.85
4% Worldbank 79/87PP	94.00	7.58	7.50	8.22	1. 8.87
4% Worldbank 79/89	95.50	8.12	11.42	8.37	1. 7.87
4% Worldbank 80/80	97.75	8.06	9.91	8.21	1. 1.80
4% Worldbank 80/80 II PP	97.75	8.06	9.92	8.21	1. 1.80
4% Yokohama 68/83 (G)	98.50	6.78	3.58	7.03	1. 9.72-83S
4% Yokohama 68/84 (G)	98.50	7.04	4.66	7.25	30. 9.73-84S
4% Yokohama 71/86 (G)	100.15	7.98	3.54	7.92	1. 8.71-86S
4% Yoshiida Kogyo 76/80 PP	99.50	8.79	0.42	9.78	1. 7.80
4% Yugosl. Inv. Bank 77/84 PP	93.25	8.58	4.87	9.80	15. 12.79-84S

BY MICHAEL CASSELL

# Development revival in London

dates for A&D  
11th  
14th  
14th  
11th  
14th  
12th

THE DEBATE on the merits of a fresh wave of office development in central London is in full swing. The battle lines last drawn up in the early 1970s appear to be forming again and local authorities, community groups and a number of MPs have started to fight the man whom they see as a legitimate target—the property developer.

The revival of interest in property development in London has largely been provoked by some notable planning proposals, not least the European Ferries' plan for a £40m office, shops and apartment complex on the banks of the Thames by Vauxhall Bridge and plans to develop the Coin Street site further East along the River.

The future of both projects is after separate planning inquiries, now in the hands of Mr. Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment. Those opposed to another outbreak of office building in London believe that approval of these two plans could pave the way for countless others.

Apart from voicing detailed objections to individual schemes, opponents of an upsurge in office building claim that London needs more office space as badly as it needs another Great Fire.

People like Mr. Peter Brown, of town planning specialists Stephen George, have painted a picture of decentralisation of the capital, with falling numbers of workers seeking employment in the centre of London and more and more employers taking space in the suburbs or further afield.

Suggestions that micro-chip technology might eliminate much of the need for space and lead to a 20 per cent cut in office employment over the next decade or so have been put forward to further the case for a clampdown on new development.

In opposing the Thameside

Some limited support for this view has come from within the pension funds, now a major force in property development, one or two of which have begun to be more wary about the long-standing assumption that good office building will always be an outstanding investment.

Mr. Brown has pointed out that the fall in central London office employment in the five years up until 1976 was more than twice the rate recorded in the previous five years. He also claims that a fall in the number of public service jobs, together with a less optimistic outlook for the "growth services," such as banking and insurance, will help maintain the outward drift.

## Permissions

In any case, he argues, there is well over 22m sq ft of office space in central London accounted for by planning permissions or land zoned for office development, in addition to space vacant and waiting for occupiers.

Mr. Brown and those who support him say that any new development should be in London's outlying areas or satellite towns.

But the argument against more central office space is not merely based on a question of existing supply or, indeed, of prohibitive costs. The property development industry has, for many years, had to live with a bad reputation. Although, in the aftermath of the mid-1970s crash, it has undergone fundamental changes, its motives are still closely scrutinised by suspicious onlookers.

Mr. Stuart Holland, Labour MP for Vauxhall, within whose constituency the European Ferries scheme would be sited, believes that the property developer has not changed his spots.

In opposing the Thameside

plan, Mr. Holland says that offices in that type of location provide little or no benefit to the local community. He rejects suggestions that they bring new life to run-down areas and claims they merely house large numbers of commuting staff who make little or no contribution to the regeneration of the area.

The property speculator, says Mr. Holland, is often the only real beneficiary and he adds fuel to an entirely different argument by suggesting that those who pay for elaborate office projects should be diverting resources into areas where they are really required, such as investment in industry.

But despite considerable past justification for the views of critics such as Mr. Holland, the property development industry of the 1980s claims to bear no relation to its predecessor.

Speculation in the old sense is today rarely an appropriate term for use in connection with an industry dominated by pension funds and insurance companies which confine themselves to rock solid proposals and aim to ensure that rentals are signed up in advance of completion.

As an example, Shell UK has said that it will take the office space in any Commercial Properties' scheme which goes ahead at Coin Street, European Ferries says it already has three or four tenants interested in its Vauxhall development. Even the speculative Trafalgar House-Whitebread office project on the edge of the City seems about to be sold to, and occupied by, British Petroleum.

While the agents have differing views on how much space is being added to the City's stock, most agree that the limited supply of good accommodation is not likely to improve in the medium term. Mr. Clive Arding of Richard Ellis' City office believes, however, that the situation may at least

be tempered by a flattening out in demand.

Such is the staid state of this traditionally volatile industry that Mr. Julian Markham, chairman of Glengate Properties, was a few days ago moved to attack the institutions' apparent reluctance to back the "imagination and dare" of entrepreneurial developers who created the last boom. He suggested that the new development required would not be provided "within the cosy guidelines of current institutional thinking" and called for a new era of co-operation between those with the flair and those with the money.

The institutions, who even now are tidying up after the 1974 crash, may believe that their steady, calculated "blue chip" approach towards property investment is the only policy worth following.

To the institutions, "blue-chip" invariably means the City of London — the natural hub of the office property market. Anyone looking for signs of another development boom will be hard pressed to find it in the 80m sq ft of office space comprising what is accepted as the most expensive collection of real estate anywhere in the world.

For although London's strategic importance in terms of the international financial community seems intact and demand for space — particularly from the joint stock banks who now occupy an estimated 10m sq ft of space in the City — has until recently been very strong, the provision of new accommodation has not kept pace.

In 1975 a hopelessly delayed response to demand led to the completion of nearly 21m sq ft at a time when the letting market was at its weakest. The result was a huge excess of space which took several years to clear and which led more abruptly to a fall in rental values of 40 to 50 per cent.

Since then, development activity has been more orderly and restrained.

Mr. Richard Caw, the senior partner says, "Reports that there is as much as 20m sq ft of office space under construction or with planning consent within Central London have no reliable source. Several consents may exist for the same site and a large proportion of these is never taken up in the last ten-year period for which figures are available, only a little over half of the permissions granted were translated into development and completed within that period."

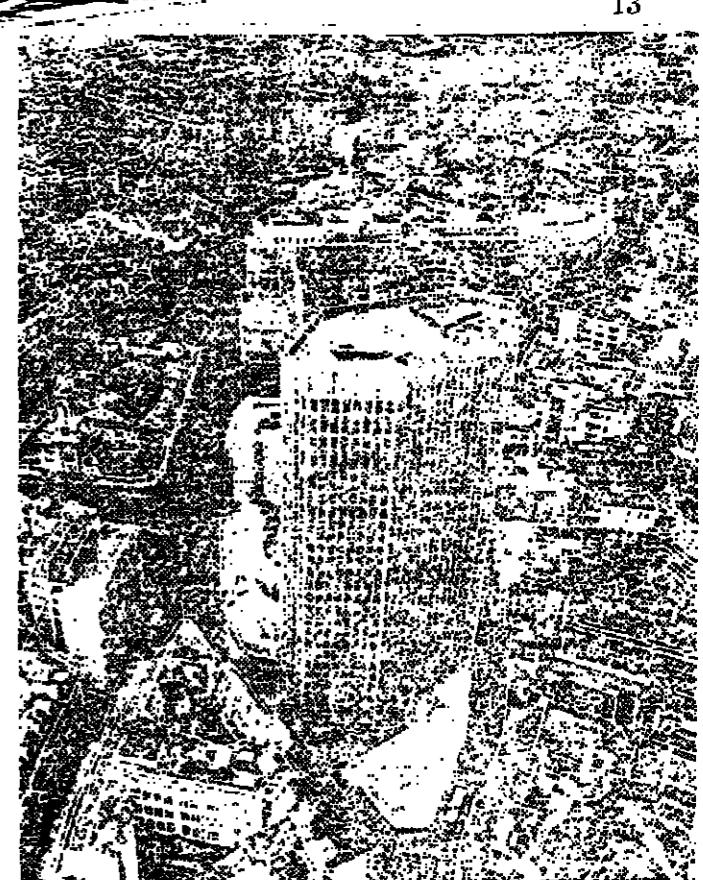
Development opportunities are in any case severely limited in a central zone where buildings and working population densities must have reached tolerable limits and where the provision of new space invariably implies refurbishment or rebuilding. New schemes over 100,000 sq ft are a rare commodity.

The result of such constraints, combined with the determination of the City to remain a leading financial centre, has been a steady decline in the availability of office space available to meet the length of time taken to bring projects through to the market. On this occasion, the position is different.

"After a prolonged period of very heavy demand, there is an underlying weakness in the letting market. As a result, excellent rentals are being quickly achieved for space sought by more than one tenant but at the same time other top quality accommodation is still available." According to Mr. Peacock, who is convinced of the City's long-term ability to attract tenants, "Rents could in some cases possibly reach £30 a sq ft this year, though £25-26 may be more normal."

The view is shared by Mr. Chris Peacock of Jones Lang Wootton who says: "The market is busy although it is not necessarily a very deep one at present. But with the supply of good quality space down to its lowest level for five years,

we expect rents to remain flat to rise in any dramatic way but if the economy turns the corner in the early 1980s then we could see a big increase in demand which will not be met by available space. That could spell a substantial take-off in rents."



Ashley Ashwood

The most expensive real estate package in the world. Is more space needed in the City?

strong and to rise further."

No one is suggesting that demand is likely to fall back to the extent that rental levels will drop. It has taken from early 1978 for rents on prime City space to return to the figures achieved in the second half of 1974 (£20-£22 a sq ft) and the space shortage is expected, regardless of any slackening in demand, to maintain upward pressure on rentals.

After a prolonged period of very heavy demand, there is an underlying weakness in the letting market. As a result, excellent rentals are being quickly achieved for space sought by more than one tenant but at the same time other top quality accommodation is still available.

Mr. Peacock, who is convinced of the City's long-term ability to attract tenants, "Rents could in some cases possibly reach £30 a sq ft this year, though £25-26 may be more normal."

Their reaction, with one eye on inflation and the other on historically low yields, is a cautious one. But with huge volumes of money searching for a suitable home and many pension funds wishing to place up to 30 per cent of their investment cash into property, the City of London looks set to remain a favourite and fairly wise choice.

## Product liability

From the Industrial and Consumer Affairs Liaison Officer, Commission of the European Communities

Sir.—Mr. Benson (February 7) implies that the EEC draft directive on product liability is basically consumer-oriented and does not take account of the legitimate interests of industry. There is surely no need for any public authority such as the EEC Commission to apologise for seeking to protect consumers in this age of sophisticated and often bewildering technology.

But in any case, from the point of view of industry itself, in the absence of the directive, manufacturers would continue to be faced with a tangle of legal uncertainties in the nine (soon to be ten) different member states of the European Community. Furthermore the general trend of legislative and judicial decisions would in any case be likely everywhere to continue to move in the direction of strict manufacturers' liability for injury resulting from defective products. In this country, for example, the law already imposes extremely high safety standards on manufacturers. And the recommendations of the Law Commission and the Royal Commission headed by Lord Pearson are at least as strict as the proposed EEC directive.

This being granted, would it not be better for industry, as well as for the public, for there to be a more common approach to the problem throughout the European Community? This is what the proposed directive aims to achieve.

Mr. Benson argues that industry cannot afford the cost of the additional insurance that would be called for. EEC Commission research on this point indicates that the additional cost would in most cases be slight. And this cost would in any event be passed on to the consumer whom it is the object of the exercise to protect.

Incidentally, if the burden on industry is as heavy as Mr. Benson suggests, he can hardly argue at the same time, as he seeks to do, that no real threat to fair competition within the Common Market can result from different national approaches to the subject.

Robert Sheaf,  
20, Kensington Palace Gdns, W8

providing compensation for injuries caused by defective products, while making detailed recommendations for dealing with compensation for all other types of injury.

The suggestion that this relatively small group of people, relatively cheap to compensate, should get nothing unless arrangements can be made for compensating everybody else who is injured (many of whom have other methods of getting compensation anyway) is another depressing episode in the saga of the public unwillingness of British industry to take responsibility for the goods it produces.

The cost of product liability will ultimately be paid not by industry, but by consumers. It is precisely because we believe that it is right that the costs of compensating the very small number of individual consumers who are injured by defective products and who cannot claim successfully under existing laws should be shared among the whole mass of consumers who enjoy the benefit of that industry's products that the National Consumer Council and other consumer organisations believe that the principle of strict liability is right. Any impartial observer who looks at the estimates of the costs involved cannot but agree that it will be a bargain at the price.

Maurice Healy,  
18 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.

## Severe legal requirement

From the Commercial Director, Process Plant Association.  
Sir.—The EEC draft directive on product liability is indeed an item of consumer-oriented compensatory social legislation masquerading as a mechanism to regulate competition.

The proposal, although purporting to harmonise the present legislative provisions of the member-states, does in fact seek to impose a new legal requirement which is more severe than any currently in force.

The Commission argues that harmonisation is necessary because legislative differences between the member-states distort competition and hinder the free movement of goods, but it has not produced evidence that such distortion or hindrance actually exists.

Notwithstanding the recommendation to the contrary by the European Parliament, the proposal denies to the producer the defence that his product could not have been regarded as defective in the light of the scientific and technological development at the time it was put into circulation (the "state of the art" defence), and thus makes him entirely responsible for development risks, including unknown defects.

J. L. Good,  
23, Whitehall, SW1.

## Optimism rules

From Messrs. R. Stockford, J. Foulerton, and Mr. M. Hazel.

Sir.—In his article "Go north and cheer up" (Lambard column, February 6) Geoffrey Owen reports on a new sense of purpose which is beginning to prevail as a younger generation of managers take charge of large sections of big industry in the Midlands, the north of England and Scotland.

We believe a similar picture can be painted of small firms in the north; where we sense a wide ground swell of activity the likes of which we have not seen during two decades of involvement with this sector. The trend, which started gently over two years ago, accelerated last year. In our own field, the demand for cost rent accommodation in small units is strong

over most of the northern counties. It is particularly encouraging that many new firms we deal with are involved in manufacturing—mostly supplying specialist equipment; sadly few are involved in high technology products.

Just as Mr. Owen reports, we too detect a mood of ambition and determination. Given sustained encouragement by successive Governments this augurs well for a prosperous Britain 20 years ahead! Our concern is that far too much will be expected too soon.

We fear a reaction will set in when in the early years new job creation by these firms does not achieve the scale on which the government is presently relying.

R. Stockford,  
J. E. Foulerton,  
M. Hazel,  
The North British Industrial Association,  
Unicentre,  
Lords Walk, Preston.

## Small craft foundries

From Dr. D. Hitchens

Sir.—The special pleading for a capital loan scheme, extension of tax rebates, relief from environmental control legislation, etc.—to protect the small craft foundries requires more justification than given by Messrs. Kilpatrick and Hall in their letters of February 7.

The ferrous foundry aid scheme has already provided a hefty injection of public funds, over £50m of projects have been approved, to modernise and improve productivity in the industry. The grants themselves have probably added to excess capacity in iron founding and the difficulties small firms now encounter are probably symptomatic of the required streamlining of the industry.

Further closure is no new problem. Over the last 20 years their numbers have been reduced by more than 800—a structural change which stems partly from a shift of production to larger units, and partly from changes in production methods and in demand. Generally the reduction has been at the expense of the small foundry, especially those producing lower quality work. Small firm alone has not been a problem; so long as the engineering expertise was available, and good quality work was produced, small foundries were able to succeed and expand.

This was the conclusion from my investigation of 1972, and has been confirmed by my subsequent continued contact with the industry. That investigation was undertaken in collaboration with the Foundry Industry Training Committee (at the University of Aston Management Centre), and was based not only on a questionnaire survey of firms (as Mr. Kilpatrick suggests) but also on interviews, and analyses of the financial performance over a number of years, of 70 firms in

the industry.

As evidence of the soundness of NEDO's conclusions Mr. Kilpatrick draws attention to an analysis of a dozen foundries undertaken for NEDO by independent consultants. An examination, however, of the principal characteristics of the six firms in the sample which represented foundries at

greatest risk of closure (those employing fewer than 25 persons) shows they were significantly less skill-intensive than were all firms of that size in the industry. Under a third of the man-hours worked in those firms were "craft-hours," compared with nearly double that in similar sized firms covered by the Foundry Industry Training Committee. The NEDO evidence is thus based both on a very small sample and one that is apparently not representative.

Until stronger evidence is produced to the contrary, the only conclusion that should be drawn is that we are now witnessing signs of a healthy streamlining of the industry. It would be a mistake to commit public funds to reverse that trend.

Dr. D. Hitchens,  
National Institute of Economic and Social Research,  
2, Dean Trench Street, Smith Square, SW1.

## Controlling the Comptroller

From Professor E. Stamp, Director, International Centre for Research in Accounting

Sir—Although I am sure it was unintentional, Sir Douglas Henley's dismissal (February 1) of Mr. Lafferty's "familiar criticism about non-qualified staff" in the Exchequer and Audit Department has an unfortunate ring of complacency about it. It would be interesting to hear from Sir Douglas on the question of whether better qualified staff would have enabled his department to have done a better job in the monitoring of the activities of the Crown Agents; that affair also raised the issue (so far ignored) as to the extent to which the E. and A.D. is under the thumb of the Treasury. It is all very well for Mr. Garrett (also February 1) to complain about the "encroachment on the rights of Parliament," but surely the main problem has been the supine and servile incompetence of the Public Accounts Committee in its efforts to curb the influence of the Treasury over the Comptroller and Auditor-General.

Sir Douglas Henley might also like to comment on the fact that his opposite number in Canada, for example, moved into the Canadian civil service from a senior partnership in Price Waterhouse and Co., and I am certain that Sir Alan Neale (February 1 again) would not be able to find any Canadians who believe that the result of this was (in Sir Alan's sarcastic phrase) "to make the control of public expenditure more expensive."

In fact, as Sir Douglas and Sir Alan ought to be among the first to acknowledge, the "remuneration package" of senior British civil servants generally includes a knighthood, to say nothing of indexed pensions and opportunities for lucrative City employment after retirement. If Canada, minus an honour system, can attract top-flight professionals into its public service so could Britain. I suspect that the main problem is not "low" pay but rather the frustrations of having to deal with the Dickensian bureaucracy that masquerades under the title of the British civil service (Professor Edward Stamp, The University of Lancaster).

Gillow House,  
Bailrigg, Lancaster.

## GENERAL

U.K.: National Union of Teachers stage half-day strike against staff cuts. Coventry.

Sir Peter Gadsden, Lord Mayor of London, attends luncheon with partners of L. Messel and Co., stockbrokers, at Winchester House, II, Old Broad Street, EC2, 1 pm.

Mr. Billy Graham, evangelist, speaks at Cambridge Union.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Captain General, on visit to Royal Marines in winter training in North Norway.

Overseas: European Central Bankers begins two-day meeting in Basle.

## Today's Events

OFFICIAL STATISTICS Wholesales price index (January provisional). Turnover of catering trades (fourth quarter).

Central Government transactions (including borrowing requirement) (January).

COMPANY MEETINGS See Week's Financial Diary

COMPANY RESULTS Final dividends: Broadstone Investment Trust. Ladies Pride Outerwear. Murray Western Investment Trust. Interim figures: Murray Caledonian Aerospace Bill remaining stages.

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS House of Commons: British Aerospace Bill remaining stages.

After 70 years in the security business we've solved just about every problem associated with money.

## UK COMPANY NEWS

## Murray Johnstone forms fund with Kemper U.S.

Murray Johnstone, the Scottish investment trust managers, is planning to launch a company with Kemper Financial Services of Chicago to invest dollar funds outside the U.S. Discussions are now at an advanced stage and the partners hope that operations will begin on April 1 this year with an initial portfolio of \$30m.

Kemper is an asset management firm with funds under management of \$8.5bn. Of this, \$2.9bn is managed on behalf of

its parent, Kemper Corporation. \$1.1bn represent pension fund accounts and \$2.3bn is made up of mutual funds.

The initial \$30m will be drawn from the first pool and will be designed primarily to match Kemper Corporation's investment commitments outside the U.S. A large portion of the funds will initially be invested in Euro-instruments.

Mr. Robert Stephens, a director of Murray Johnstone and

the investment manager of the new company, says he expects funds from the second pool to be drawn into the international portfolio in the course of the first year. In the event of a non-U.S. mutual fund being launched by Kemper, it would be managed by the joint company.

The Murray Johnstone deal is the latest in a succession of alliances between British merchant banks or investment managers and U.S. fund managers. U.S. pension funds alone have funds under management of \$400bn, of which \$185bn is invested in equities.

This equity figure, however,

includes only Siba placed outside

the U.S. and fund managers are rapidly boosting the overseas component of their portfolios.

Kemper Financial Services is

a wholly-owned subsidiary of

Kemper Corporation, an

insurance and financial services

holding company, which is in

turn controlled by

Kemper's Mutual Casualty

Insurance Company.

The new company, which will

be called Kemper-Murray

Johnstone International Inc., will

be owned 51 per cent by Kemper

and 49 per cent by the Scottish

parent. The venture will be

marketed by Kemper, while the

Murray Johnstone side will have

responsibility for investment

management.

Turnover for the first half

amounted to £15.78m against

£14.61m.

Again there is no interim divi-

dend and loss per share is shown

as 18.06p (12.18p earnings).

The directors report that in the

period under review and in the

months to date, there has been

a contraction in the market,

coupled with escalating costs,

exemplified by continuous in-

creases in fuel prices which now

represent over 50 per cent of

total operating costs.

The world-wide economic down-

turn resulting from the energy

crisis has been an added factor.

Latterly there has been a regre-

table tendency in the air freight

market for agents to foster a

rate cutting atmosphere by

switching business to Europe

and elsewhere to make short-

term and short-sighted

economies.

## British Cargo loses £0.8m at six months

British Cargo Airlines, formed last year by the merger of IAS Cargo Airlines and Transmeridian Air Cargo, incurred a pre-tax loss of £305,000 in the six months to September 30, 1979, compared with a £535,000 profit in the same period last year.

Trading conditions continue to be difficult and the directors say the current year is not expected to show a profit. However rationalisation measures are expected to show improved results in the next financial year.

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Again there is no interim dividend and loss per share is shown as 18.06p (12.18p earnings).

The directors report that in the period under review and in the months to date, there has been a contraction in the market, coupled with escalating costs, exemplified by continuous increases in fuel prices which now represent over 50 per cent of total operating costs.

The world-wide economic downturn resulting from the energy crisis has been an added factor. Latterly there has been a regrettable tendency in the air freight

market for agents to foster a rate cutting atmosphere by switching business to Europe and elsewhere to make short-

term and short-sighted economies.

In addition the scheduled passenger carriers are able to improve their total revenue by utilising cargo carrying capacity in the board states.

Cargo's single capacity exceeds demand, but the company has and will continue to take, as necessary, the most stringent steps to safeguard its future.

The company is consolidating its position at the main operating base, Gatwick Airport, with a fleet of six jet DC8 aircraft, and is disposing of its fleet of seven CL44 aircraft.

## Maddock borrowings rise

AUDITORS of Maddock, earthenware and bone china group, state that as a result of the loss for the June 30, 1979 year, borrowings at the year-end exceeded the limits authorised by the Articles of Association.

However, this breach of the borrowing powers was rectified by the sale of the U.S. interests,

Ceramik Group, which was

completed on January 29.

Balance sheet shows net current liabilities of £416,452 at June 30, 1980, compared with £473,774 assets and total assets at £1.37m against £2.25m. Creditors and accruals amounted to £2.16m (£1.47m), secured financing loan £347,222 (£747,285), current portion of long-term loans

£110,366 (£215,038), and secured bank overdraft was £783,615 (£250,984).

As reported on January 31, a sharp acceleration of losses during the second half left the group with a deficit of £897,829 at the year end, compared with a taxable profit of £247,849.

At February 4, Miss Gladys Wrigley held 23.3 per cent of the company's preference capital, London and Manchester Assurance Company, 14.5 per cent and Commercial Union Assurance, 11.3 per cent.

Meetings, 1 St. Swithin's Lane, E.C., March 4 at noon.

## Alexanders Discount has ability to adapt

THE REDUCTION in resources of Alexander's Discount Company means that the size of the portfolio may be carried is reduced and this makes recovery more difficult, Mr. John Glyn, chairman, says in his annual report.

However the Board is confident that the company will be able to take good advantage of any fall in interest rates in the coming year.

In 1979, the company incurred a loss of £250,000 (£200,000 profit) after drawing extensively on both published and inner reserves. But in view of the cyclical nature of the business and the large retentions of previous years, the dividend is maintained at 16.00p per share.

Mr. Glyn draws attention to the possible changes in the mechanism of monetary control and says if it comes about, it may mean changes in the company's role "but we are confident of our ability to adapt" he adds.

The company's holdings of British Government securities at December 31 show an increase from £5.05m to £9.07m while British Government Treasury Bills amounted to £70.3m (£14.03m) and commercial and local authority bills, £296.92m (£236.72m).

Secured loans stood at £63.42m (£383.2m) and deposits, other liabilities, deferred tax and contingency reserve amounted to £94.50m (£85.1m). There is a contingent liability on bills rediscounted, excluding Treasury bills of £520.24m (£179.25m).

At February 4, Miss Gladys Wrigley held 23.3 per cent of the company's preference capital, London and Manchester Assurance Company, 14.5 per cent and Commercial Union Assurance, 11.3 per cent.

Meetings, 1 St. Swithin's Lane, E.C., March 4 at noon.

## Reduction for Willoughby's Consolidated

Taxable profits of Lonrho subsidiary Willoughby's Consolidated Company, a Rhodesian rancher and landowner, slipped from £512,626 to £248,005 in the year to September 30, 1979. Last year's total included other credits of £203,157.

Turnover was static at £767,811 (£754,891) and tax takes £143,779 (£161,052). Earnings per 50p share are shown as 3.4p (19.6p). There is again no dividend.

Both UK manufacturing

operations have been

reorganised, Mr. Pearl states,

and productivity "has significantly increased." Recent trade has been encouraging in spite of general weakness in the market, he adds.

A statement of source and application of funds shows a decrease in working capital of £91,809 against a £416,948 increase—net liquid funds decreased by £387,253 (£144,026).

W.M. LOW BUYS FREEZER GROUP

William Low and Co., supermarket operators, is acquiring Hoto together with shop properties purchased from C. Barras, the principal shareholder of Hoto.

The aggregate consideration is £470,000 subject to final adjustments which will not be material on the valuation of stock in trade.

Hoto runs a small chain of retail freezer centres. The value of the assets being acquired amount to £650,000 and net profit of Hoto for 1978 was £47,000.

BITING RUBBER—HEDGEFIELD COUNTY

The offer for Biting Rubber Estates by Hedgefield County Securities will close on February 22.

GRINDLAYS LTD.

Mass Development Company (a subsidiary of Musard Al Saleh and Sons group of Kuwait) has purchased 30,000 ordinary taking its stake in Grindlays Holdings to 1,715,000 shares (5.04 per cent).

SPAIN

High Low Price

1800 1800 1800

210 200 Banco Bilbao ... 216

353 204 Banco Central ... 232

220 204 Banco de Vizcaya ... 216

285 200 Banco Hispano ... 211

174 135 Banco Ind. Cen ... 135

213 170 Banco Ind. Cen ... 129

348 200 Banco Santander ... 245

207 100 Banco Sabadell ... 103

205 202 Banco Vizcaya ... 228

261 195 Banco Zaragoza ... 200

220 100 Dresdgos ... 102

99 99 Espanola Zinc ... 62

76 22.5 Gnl. Fracadas ... 52

77.5 52.75 Hidrol ... 63

76 52 Iberduero ... 60

178 110 Petróleos ... 117

127 377 Petróleos ... 72

130 115 Sogefisa ... 115

82 53 Telefónica ... 54

69.7 53 Union Elect ... 64

Feb. 8

High Low Price

1800 1800 1800

210 200 Banco Bilbao ... 216

353 204 Banco Central ... 232

220 204 Banco de Vizcaya ... 211

174 135 Banco Ind. Cen ... 135

213 170 Banco Ind. Cen ... 129

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178 110 Petróleos ... 117

127 377 Petróleos ... 72

Financial Times Monday February 11 1980

## Parliament business this week

**TODAY**  
COMMONS—British Aerospace Bill, remaining stages.  
**SELECT COMMITTEES—Home Affairs.** Subject: Law on public order; deaths in police custody. Witnesses: Police Fed. (4.30 pm, Room 8).  
**Public Accounts.** Subject: Financial effects of Civil Service strike. Witnesses: Min. of Defence and Overseas Development Admin. (4.45 pm, Room 16).

**TOMORROW**  
COMMONS—Education Bill, remaining stages. Consular Fees Bill, second reading.  
**LORDS—New Hebrides Bill.** Committee: National Heritage Bill, second reading. Matrimonial Homes (Co-ownership) Bill, second reading.  
**SELECT COMMITTEES—Foreign Affairs.** Subject: Increase in overseas students' fees. Witnesses: British Council Overseas Students Trust (4.30 pm, Room 16).

**WEDNESDAY**  
COMMONS—Education Bill, remaining stages.  
**LORDS—Debate on Government's industrial, financial and monetary policies. Criminal Justice (Amendment) Bill, third reading. Interpretation of Legislation Bill, second reading.**

**SELECT COMMITTEES—Education.** Subject: Funding and organisation of courses in higher education. Witnesses: Ctes. of Vice-Chancellors, Ctes. of Directors of Polytechnics, Assoc. of Principals of Colleges (9.30 am, Room 6).  
**Energy.** Subject: Government's nuclear power programme. Witnesses: United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (10.45 am, Room 8).  
**Industry and Trade.** Witnesses: Trade Policy Research Centre (10.45 am, Room 16).  
**Employment.** Subject: Manpower Services Commission's Corporate Plan 1980-84. Witnesses: Manpower Services Commission (4.30 pm, Room 6).

**THURSDAY**  
COMMONS—Debate on EEC fisheries policy.  
**LORDS—Debate on Government's airport policy. Debate on security in Northern Ireland.**  
**SELECT COMMITTEES—Agriculture.** Subject: Implications of Common Agricultural Policy on milk and dairy products. Witnesses: Prof. V. H. Beynon, Prof. J. C. Bowman (11.45 am, Room 16).  
**Home Affairs.** Subject: Deaths in police custody. Witnesses: DPP, Coroners' Soc., British Assoc. in Forensic Medicine (4.30 pm, Room 8).  
**FRIDAY**  
COMMONS—Private Members' Bills.

## WEEK'S FINANCIAL DIARY

The following is a record of the principal business and financial engagements during the week. The Board meetings are mainly for the purpose of considering dividends and official indications are not always available whether dividends concerned are interim or final. The sub-divisions shown below are based mainly on last year's timetable.

### TODAY

#### COMPANY MEETINGS

Solihull Park Service Ltd. 34.35. New Bond St. W. 2.20

234-248 Old St. E.C.

#### BOARD MEETINGS

Finsbury Investment Trust

London Polythene Co.

Murray Weston Inv. Trus.

#### DIVIDEND & INTEREST PAYMENTS

Bassett (Gen.) 1.625/250

H. Industrial 0.50/750

Industrial Protection Finance B.V.

Globe Floating Rate Notes 1983 SUSS8.77

Collins 1.289

Electric & Gen. Inv. 0.85p

Gascoigne 1.25

Guinness (Archer) Ord. Units 6.65p

Heinkel 0.25/750

Murray Colston Inv. Trs. 0.5p

Saint Piran 18

#### TOMORROW

#### COMPANY MEETINGS

Argentia Inv. Trs. 37 Queen St. Ed. 1.20

Barclays and Natwest, Kimberley Breweries

NBS Negotiations, Ryde House, Chobham Road, Woking, Surrey, 2.30

#### BOARD MEETINGS

City and Foreign Investment

Crescent Japan Inv. Trust

Forster (Marshall)

Macmillan (Donald)

Matthews Interiors

Guinness Peat

Imperial Chemical Industries Reliance Railways

Webb Joseph

#### DIVIDEND & INTEREST PAYMENTS

Argentia Inv. Trs. Income 4.1p

Barclays 0.40

NBS Negotiations 1.35p

Birrell Opticat 2.212p

KUKI 1.25p

#### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

#### COMPANY MEETINGS

Lloyd's of Scotland 1.20

Northumbrian 1.20

#### BOARD MEETINGS

Finals—

American Securities

Birrell Opticat

General Consolidated Inv. Trust

Security Services

Yardley Inv. Trust

#### Press Tools

#### DIVIDEND & INTEREST PAYMENTS

M. and G. European and General Fund

New Jersey Knit. 1.15p

Robertson 1.205p

Standard Chartered Bank Notes 1990, SU.S.52.14

#### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14

#### COMPANY MEETINGS

12.30pm—

Northumbrian Hotel, 30 Buckingham Palace Road, W.C.2H 2AJ

SEFC Midland Hotel, 12am

Glasgow Central Hotel, Gordon St.

Unis. Spring and Steel Bham. Chamber

Industries 1.20

Royal 1.20

#### BOARD MEETINGS

Finals—

Howard Machinery

Imperial Group

Renown Inv. Trust

Southgate Mortg. Trust

River Plate and General Inv. Trust

Tribune Inv. Trust

Arni Industries

Bray

Bray (Robert M.)

English Association of American Bond and

Guildhall Property

Industrial Rabobank

Invested Secured Growth Trust

#### DIVIDEND & INTEREST PAYMENTS

Brookhouse 2.65p

Carroll Group Ord. 2.75p

Gardiner Inv. Trs. Div. 2. (76-86) 4

Kitchen Queen 0.854p

Metody Mills 1p

Monks Inv. Trust 1.27p

Scottish Metl. Prod. Div. 3.5p (F9-84)

31/188-93 Div. Ld. 4.1p

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15

#### COMPANY MEETINGS

Leeds 1.20

London 1.20

Southgate 1.20

1.20

#### BOARD MEETINGS

Finals—

Aspinwall 1.20

Bray 1.20

Bray (Robert M.)

English Association of American Bond and

Guildhall Property

Industrial Rabobank

Invested Secured Growth Trust

#### DIVIDEND & INTEREST PAYMENTS

Aspinwall 1.20

Bray 1.20

Bray (Robert M.)

English Association of American Bond and

Guildhall Property

Industrial Rabobank

Invested Secured Growth Trust

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

#### COMPANY MEETINGS

London 1.20

Southgate 1.20

1.20

#### BOARD MEETINGS

Finals—

Aspinwall 1.20

Bray 1.20

Bray (Robert M.)

English Association of American Bond and

Guildhall Property

Industrial Rabobank

Invested Secured Growth Trust

#### DIVIDEND & INTEREST PAYMENTS

Aspinwall 1.20

Bray 1.20

Bray (Robert M.)

English Association of American Bond and

Guildhall Property

Industrial Rabobank

Invested Secured Growth Trust

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

#### COMPANY MEETINGS

London 1.20

Southgate 1.20

1.20

#### BOARD MEETINGS

Finals—

Aspinwall 1.20

Bray 1.20

Bray (Robert M.)

English Association of American Bond and

Guildhall Property

Industrial Rabobank

Invested Secured Growth Trust

#### DIVIDEND & INTEREST PAYMENTS

Aspinwall 1.20

Bray 1.20

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English Association of American Bond and

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Industrial Rabobank

Invested Secured Growth Trust

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18



# **WORLD STOCK MARKETS**

# Heavy final quarter loss for Braniff

By IAN HARGREAVES IN NEW YORK

**BRANIFF INTERNATIONAL**, one of the world's most rapidly growing airlines in recent years, plummeted to a \$51.4m loss in the final quarter of last year.

Mr. Harding Lawrence, chairman of the Texas-based airline, blamed the severity of the downturn on more than doubled fuel costs which, he said, Braniff was unable to pass on to customers because of cumbersome Civil Aeronautics Board procedures for clearing fare applications.

Braniff's poor fourth quarter means a net loss for the year of \$43.3m, or \$2.21 a share, compared with profits of \$45.23m, or \$2.26 a share, in 1978. This was in spite of sales being up by more than 38 per cent to \$1.34bn, a 40 per cent increase in revenue passenger miles and a higher load factor of 56.3 per cent (proportion of seats occupied).

For the quarter, sales were up 32 per cent to \$261m. The \$51.4m loss (equivalent to \$2.57 per share, compared with earn-

ings of \$10.1m (51 cents per share) in 1978.

Mr. Lawrence said that in spite of continued pressure from fuel prices, he expected Braniff to be profitable this year, although he urged the CAB to move quickly on its plans to increase pricing flexibility. He also appealed to Congress to speed up the process of lifting regulations on the airlines' freedom to set prices and open new routes.

The key to the 1979 result, he

said, was a windfall loss of \$50m in fuel costs, but this had not prevented Braniff establishing itself in new routes and continuing to modernise its fleet, which he claimed would be the most modern of any major world airline by the end of this year.

Bookings this year looked promising, although Braniff was planning to reduce seat miles offered by 1.3 per cent and aircraft miles by 9 per cent in order to reduce costs.

The key to the 1979 result, he

## Upturn at General Dynamics

BY OUR NEW YORK STAFF

**GENERAL DYNAMICS**, the leading U.S. defence contractor, has put the memory of its 1978 losses caused by cost overruns on submarines behind it—with a report of record earnings in 1979.

The St Louis-based company earned \$1.835m, equal to \$6.85 a share on sales up 27 per cent to \$4.06bn. This compared with a net loss of \$4.8m in 1978, following a \$1.67m loss negotiated with the navy on a submarine deal.

As a further mark that General Dynamics considers this problem to have been dealt with, Mr. P. Tsakos Veliotis, who has been in charge of changes in

the shipbuilding division in the last two years, has been promoted to executive vice-president, Marine.

In the fourth quarter, earnings were \$57.7m, or \$2.14 a share, compared with \$48.3m, or \$1.80 a share, a year earlier. Sales in the quarter rose to \$1.09bn, from \$98.8m.

Mr. David S. Lewis, chairman of General Dynamics, said that each of the company's divisions and subsidiaries had been profitable in 1979. The company builds ships, submarines, aircraft, weapons, and fuselages for the McDonnell Douglas DC10.

The marine divisions, Quincy

Shipbuilding and Electric Boat, over which Mr. Veliotis will have authority, both showed improved profitability. The company was optimistic about receiving orders for liquid natural gas tankers from American importers of natural gas, Mr. Lewis said.

The company's total order backlog rose in value by 14 per cent to \$10.1bn, marking time in real terms.

General Dynamics has been one of the most active stocks on Wall Street in recent weeks, following the decision by President Carter to increase defence spending to counter Soviet aggression in Asia.

Bookings this year looked promising, although Braniff was planning to reduce seat miles offered by 1.3 per cent and aircraft miles by 9 per cent in order to reduce costs.

The key to the 1979 result, he

expected to produce a turnover of DM 188m, against DM 158.4m last year. IBH hopes that its overall turnover this year will be around DM 1.6bn.

But Herr Esch maintains that the new acquisitions are not the only growth factor. IBH's group of five German companies have boosted IBH's sales potential, though the group is having to carry out radical restructuring measures in both acquisitions. Hanomag is expected to add DM 450m to the total turnover this year, and Hymac is

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Branch

## AUTHORISED UNIT TRUSTS

**Abbey Unit Trst. Mgmt. (a)**  
22-80, Gloucester Rd., Gloucester  
Abbey Amer. Cfd. 141 626 5981  
Abbey Capital 142 503 4123  
Abbey Cfd. & T. Inv. 143 503 4123  
Abbey Income 144 428 503 4123  
Abbey Inv. Inv. Fed. 145 503 4123  
Abbey Inv. Inv. Fed. 146 503 4123  
Euston Prefs. Trust 147 757 503 4123

**Alfred Harvey & Ross Unit Trst. Mgmt.**  
45, Cornhill, London EC2V 3PB  
AHF Cfd. Inv. 148 413 626 5981

**Alfred Hamble Group (a)(b)**  
100, Victoria House, Broadwick Esq.  
Balanced Funds

**Alpha Inv. Fund**  
Alpha Inv. Fund 149 757 503 4123

**Growth & Income**  
Alpha Inv. Inv. 150 757 503 4123

**Alpha Inv. Inv. Fund**  
Alpha Inv. Inv. Fund 151 757 503 4123

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## Curbs proposed on banks' foreign exchange deals

BY MICHAEL LAFFERTY, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE BANK OF ENGLAND proposes to place absolute limits on the extent to which banks in the UK can be exposed to losses in foreign exchange.

This unprecedented move seems destined to meet with opposition from leading British banks and from foreign banks with unincorporated branches in London.

Some of these claim that the Bank seeks undue powers to intervene in internal affairs of bank management.

Uncertainties raised by the plans are such that the British Bankers' Association has decided not to circulate to its members immediately the confidential discussion paper containing the plans.

A committee is urgently considering the proposals, and seeking meetings with Bank of England officials, before a decision about distribution of the paper is taken.

The paper proposes two limits on foreign exchange exposure of individual banks:

A bank's net open position in foreign exchange, that is the

extent to which assets and liabilities in any one foreign currency are unmatched, should not exceed 10 per cent of its capital, as defined by the bank.

This is because it is not easy to calculate the capital of a branch. The Bank paper recognises this difficulty, says that the only solution is to allocate a nominal proportion of a foreign bank's group capital to the UK, against which its permissible foreign exchange exposure could then be calculated.

The Bank paper discusses with individual foreign branches to establish criteria.

Problems are also envisaged with international operations of British banks.

Another difficulty concerned methods whereby forward exchange contracts should be valued to arrive at a bank's net open position in foreign exchange.

The association may argue strongly that the Bank should not impose prudential controls tighter than those in other centres, lest this damage the money supply it publishes.

One major issue raised by the

foreign exchange discussion paper is the manner in which the rules can be applied to the many foreign banks with branches in London.

With this in mind, banks point out that in West Germany, net open positions in foreign exchange can run as high as 30 per cent of a bank's capital and reserves at the close of each business day, while for all positions due within six months the limit is 40 per cent of capital and reserves.

Until October, when exchange controls were abolished, the Bank controlled foreign exchange dealing by banks under powers granted by the Exchange Control Act.

This limited the possibility of speculation against sterling. There were no restrictions on authorised banks taking open positions in any one non-sterling currency as against another.

There is an important distinction between the old foreign exchange rules, primarily designed for protection of sterling, and the new proposals, more broadly based in the framework of what is considered prudent banking.

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## BL offer rejection forecast by union

BY ARTHUR SMITH,  
MIDLANDS CORRESPONDENT

A CONFIDENT forecast that the 90,000 employees of BL Cars will reject the company's pay offer in a ballot result expected tomorrow came last night from the leading trade union negotiators.

Mr. Grenville Hawley, national automotive secretary for the Transport and General Workers Union said: "I anticipate a success in spite of all the company propaganda and the distortion of the issues by the media."

Sir Michael Edwards, BL chairman, has warned that rejection would mean the end of BL in its present form and a further massive loss of jobs.

Mr. Hawley, however, denied that a rejection of the offer by the workforce would amount to a vote for a strike, as Sir Michael has suggested.

"We shall go back to the company for constructive negotiations and an improved offer. We cannot continue with management by confrontation," Mr. Hawley said.

Such an approach is likely to meet with a stony response. The company has stressed that it cannot afford to increase its offer, nor drop demands for fundamental changes in working practices.

How quickly the company forces the pay issue will be a key factor in whether it becomes embroiled with the dispute over the dismissal of Mr. Derek Robinson, the Longbridge convenor.

Sir Michael has made clear that the unions must get more than 51 per cent of the vote of the workforce. Abstentions would be treated as support for the management.

If the vote is fairly even, BL is expected to try to push through the deal.

Only in the event of a heavy defeat—and that seems unlikely—is Sir Michael expected to carry out the threat to withdraw the investment plan.

• The threat of strike action by engineering workers at Longbridge over the Robinson case has received with the decision of the AUEW's Birmingham West district committee to postpone action.

Longbridge stewards hope that given time they will be able to combat a management campaign within the plant to persuade workers not to walk out.

Ford overtakes BL output, page 5

## THE LEX COLUMN

# How to discourage marauders

It could not happen anywhere else. Consolidated Gold Fields—one of the UK's larger quoted companies—is being stalked by an unknown predator, assumed to be foreign, who has acquired upwards of a fifth of the equity at a probable cost of £100m or more without registering ownership of the shares. In just about every other leading industrialised company, this could be checked either by law or by twisting arms. In the UK, there is almost nothing that can be done.

It is true that the Department of Trade can appoint inspectors to discover the true owners of securities—but only last year inspectors expressed concern at "the inadequacy of the present legal machinery to enable the identification of the true owner or owners of a British registered company where those shares are held by a nominee resident abroad." Under the Industry Act, the Secretary of State can intervene if he learns of a change of control contrary to the interests of the UK. But this provision has never been invoked and it is hard to see how it might apply to Gold Fields unless the mystery buyer is thinking of introducing apartheid into Britain's state quarries.

The removal of exchange controls has meant that overseas buyers no longer have to secure Bank of England approval to buy more than 10 per cent of a UK company.

And although many companies are changing their articles of association to disenfranchise any foreign nominees holders of more than 5 per cent of their shares who are not prepared to disclose their identity, it has to be assumed that foreigners can count, and so capable of building up separate holdings of just under 5 per cent.

The French prefer more arbitrary measures to find a "French solution," but formal mechanisms have also been devised to stop the accumulation of shares en crevage. If a foreign holding is thought to have passed 20 per cent, the authorities can oblige banks or brokers to disclose the identity of their clients. In Germany, sanctions have been applied by the companies themselves. Deutsche Bank, for example, launched a major financing operation to keep the strategic Flick holding in Daimler-Benz out of Kuwaiti hands, and at about the same time several companies swiftly changed their articles to limit the voting rights of any holding.

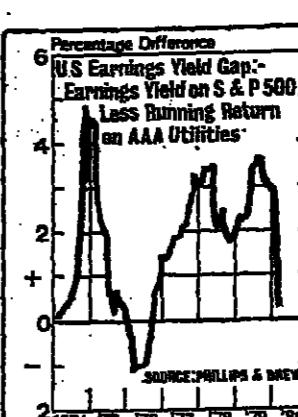
The U.S. makes no distinction between domestic and foreign registered shares, which gives the Bank of Japan a view of nominees holdings and enables it to enforce rules barring any single foreigner from holding more than 7 per cent of an industrial company.

Other countries adopting this kind of formal approach include Canada, where with few exceptions a 20 per cent holding must trigger a takeover and the authorities can oblige disclosure of beneficial ownership by the broker involved in the deal. Once revealed, the holding will attract the attention of the foreign investment review agency. Australia has a similar investor protection regime.

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Even after the slight recovery in the bond market, running returns on bonds are now almost as high as the earnings to price ratio on equities. On historical precedent, something is likely to break soon—and the inflationary psychology that is leading the rush into equity assets does not suggest a bull market in bonds just yet.

The return of the vogue for energy stocks is understandable, but some of the recent equity price rises—chasing up oil share prices against a falling spot market oil price—has begun to look rather indiscriminate. The pension funds' supposed determination to change their portfolio weightings in favour of equities may not stand up for very long to the siren voices of the bond salesmen.



SOURCE: PHILLIPS &amp; BROWN

liberal approach to inward investment just in response to Gold Fields' unusual profile. Formal Government agencies are too subject to politics and the UK has benefited greatly from the ability to attract—and export—capital. The investing institutions, rightly, would not stand for any significant move to disenfranchise permanent groups of shareholders.

Maybe a few mechanical details could be tightened up in the area of share registration, for instance. But for the time being the best advice for Gold Fields is just to keep shouting.

### U.S. yield gap

After Wednesday's bloodbath in the U.S. long bond market, the prospect of 12 per cent yields on 30-year issues at the Treasury auction was enough to draw in some buyers and produce a rally in the secondary market. Treasury 10% per cent 2030, for example, recovered to above \$80 from a low point of \$57.

But selling pressure at the short end of the bond market resumed on Friday, and any respite is likely to bring in long bond buyers.

The investment banks have very large portfolios of bonds that they have recently underwritten but never placed, and they will be looking for a chance to get rid of some, albeit at a loss.

Equities have been behaving as though bonds were of no relevance to them—the Standard and Poor's 500 has touched new highs for 1979-80 and the earnings yield on the market has steadily fallen. This, combined with the sharp increases in bond yields, has produced a two-way pull on the yield gap.

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## Governor lifts veil on intervention

BY PETER RIDDELL, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

MR. GORDON RICHARDSON, the Governor of the Bank of England, has lifted some of the veils of secrecy about official operations in the foreign exchange market.

In a unique statement of the Bank's attitude towards its own role in the market, Mr. Richardson said intervention was needed even under floating exchange rates in order to smooth out excessive rate fluctuations and to provide support for other economic policies.

The Governor's comments came in a private lecture last month to the Foreign Association. They highlight the policy dilemma facing the authorities. Central bank intervention has resulted in an underlying currency inflow of \$1bn in the past

two months. In an era of floating exchange rates, intervention "should iron out erratic fluctuations without standing against fundamental trends," Mr. Richardson argued.

After stressing that intervention could not be a substitute for appropriate monetary and fiscal policies, Mr. Richardson suggested there was a role for such action beyond very short-term smoothing.

It would probably be generally agreed that, while markets get exchange rates about right in the medium-term, in the shorter term they can often overshoot violently in either direction. The counterweight to the smoothing effect of the beneficial speculator beloved of economists—is at least in the

He argued that if such action were successful it would benefit those in the market and would also mean that the central bank had operated profitably.

He conceded that there could be problems—in particular the

smoothing, to be effective, might have to be so substantial that it could pose a threat to monetary targets."

Mr. Richardson said that in this area he saw "a fruitful, if difficult, role for central bank action with its operational freedom to take a rather longer view of developments. The problem is to distinguish between violent and unstable movements around a trend and a trend itself."

Mr. Richardson's lecture was in memory of the late Mr. Roy Bridge, a key figure in the Bank's foreign exchange operations for over a generation after the last war.

## Ministers no nearer consensus on unions

BY ELINOR GOODMAN, LOBBY STAFF

MINISTERS may be presented with a number of different options for restricting trade union immunities, rather than a single proposal, when they meet again this week to try to thrash out a solution to the question of trade union reform, which many believe is central to the credibility of the Government.

A number of important points were still outstanding last week. The signs at the weekend were that Ministers could be moving further from, rather than closer to, a consensus.

It is because of the outstanding areas of disagreement—and the very considerable problems in drawing up legally watertight proposals that Ministers are likely to be asked to consider a range of alternatives when the subject goes before the relevant Cabinet sub-committee—probably on Wednesday.

The hope remains that the sub-committee will be able to agree on a proposal to put before the full Cabinet on Thursday. It would then be published in a consultative document, shortly before or after the weekend and, after about a month for consultations, it would be introduced into the Employment Bill as an amendment.

But some Ministers believe that, given the very strong

views on both sides, the sub-committee may have to report to Cabinet that it has been unable to agree on any one solution. It would then be left to the Cabinet to decide which option should be pursued.

The Government is committed to restricting trade union immunities so as to deal more effectively with secondary action. There seems to be broad agreement among Ministers that unions should only be granted immunity from civil action for breach of commercial contracts in disputes either on the employer's premises or on those of his immediate suppliers or customers.

But there still seems to be disagreement over whether companies should be able to sue the unions themselves for damages—and so seek recompense from union funds—or whether companies should be able to sue only individual union members for breach of contract.

Employment Ministers are believed to have argued strongly that opening up the way for suits—albeit civil ones—against unions would have a disastrous effect on industrial relations. The signs after last Wednesday's meeting of the Cabinet sub-committee were that those favouring a more hawkish line—most notably, Sir George Howe, the Chancellor—had lost out.

## U.S. wins little backing in Olympic committee

BY DAVID BUCHAN IN WASHINGTON

THE INTERNATIONAL Olympic Committee, meeting at Lake Placid yesterday, began consideration of the strong U.S. call for the summer Olympic Games not to be held in Moscow if Soviet troops continued to occupy Afghanistan. But early indications were that the U.S. initiative was making no headway.

The 89-member IOC, the governing Board of the Games, heard Mr. Cyrus Vance, U.S. Secretary of State, deliver an appeal for the cancellation, postponement or switching of the games to a site other than Moscow and a suggestion that in future the Olympic Games be given a permanent home.

Mr. Vance was speaking at an opening reception of the IOC at Lake Placid before the Winter Games open on Friday.

But IOC members, who represent participating countries, gave the U.S. Secretary of State only a lukewarm hand while loudly applauding Lord Killearn, the IOC president, when he said that, in fixing the Moscow games in 1974, the committee had become bound by an agreement "which must be honoured by us all."

"Solutions to the political problems of the world are not the responsibility of sporting bodies such as the IOC, but of the appropriate governmental organisation," said the Irish

prime minister. The breakdown of talks on Friday, they fear, has created a gap between the two sides which it may take weeks to bridge.

There are still no signs of the Government's intention to fill that breach.

Sir Keith Joseph repeated yesterday the Government's determination to keep out of the dispute.

Sir Charles, who was brought in by the Labour Government in 1976, has six months of his contract to run. There now seems no question of its being renewed.

Sir Keith, asked on BBC radio yesterday whether it was true that the Department of Industry had drawn up a list of three possible successors to Sir Charles, said that it was normal to prepare for termination of contracts for such important positions.

Continued from Page 1

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### Turkey

was for a seven-year term, with a three-year grace period. Mr. Ozal described this as unrealistic and argued—as several senior IMF officials are said to believe—that the rescheduling should have been over ten years with a six-year grace period.

Once the OECD had agreed on whether to move in this direction, it would be decided whether Turkey needed to ask the commercial banks—which had already rescheduled about \$5bn of debt—to follow suit.

The banks had long accepted in private that Turkey would be obliged to seek fresh relief. Events last year in Iran and more recently in Afghanistan have made Western Governments increasingly perturbed.

Jonathan Carr writes from Bonn: West Germany hopes that a big international aid package for Turkey can be put together within two months, according to Herr Hans Mattheuer, the Finance Minister.

### Hadfield steelworkers

Nearly 10,000 lorry-drivers in the West Midlands voted yesterday to support striking steelworkers in a move expected to cut movement of steel dramatically.

Mr. Clive Lewis, Midlands divisional organiser of the ISTC, said support by lorry-drivers, coupled with a decision to picket customers, such as BL, would quickly accelerate the impact of picketing.

He said an effective picket could now be placed on BL Cars' plant at Castle Bromwich, Birmingham, to halt